

PROPHETIC MINISTRY

THE 3 LEVELS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY that we will study are:

1. **THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY**, Rev 19:10.
Definition: This is when the anointing of the Holy Spirit comes to testify of Jesus.
Who: ALL MAY PROPHECY (1 Cor.14:31) when the spirit of prophecy is upon a group, if the people are born again & sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Num.11:24-25, I Sam. 19:19-21
2. **THE GIFT OF PROPHECY**, 1 Cor. 12:4, 7, & 11. **THIS IS ONE OF THE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**, 1 Cor. 12:8-10. These are supernatural gifts to do the works of God.
Definition: The gift of prophecy is a gift or anointing that has been placed in the heart of a Christian so that they can prophecy. The spirit of prophecy falls on someone from outside, but the gift of prophecy works from inside someone's spirit, from an abiding gift or anointing.
Who: SOME CHRISTIANS ARE GIVEN THE GIFT OF PROPHECY (1 COR. 12:11) while all may prophesy when the spirit of prophecy is covering a service.
3. **THE MINISTRY OF THE PROPHET**, Ephesians 4:11-13. **THIS IS ONE OF THE 5 OFFICES OF MINISTRY GIVEN TO THE CHURCH BY CHRIST.**
Definition: The Prophet is to reveal the plans & works of God to His people, Amos 3:7
Who: FEW CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET (OR PROPHETESS), 1 Cor. 12:29. It is a higher level of ministry needing greater preparation.

THE PROPHECY OF SCRIPTURE is a fourth level of prophetic ministry. God anointed people to write the inspired, infallible Word of God that has been collected and titled "The Bible," 2 Tim 3:16, John 10:35, Rev. 22:18-19. This level of prophetic ministry is completed, so we will not study it today.

3 CHANNELS OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

1. **SPEAK** – Words are most often used to channel the spirit of prophecy in the Bible. Perhaps only a scripture reading or a few words!
2. **SING** – 2 Chronicles 29:27-28 mentions the song of the Lord. The Lord was singing through His people, by the spirit of prophecy. Study Hebrews 2:12 & Ps. 22:22 and also Zeph. 3:17. The Lord sings in the midst of His people!
- Many of the Psalms are prophetic songs of praise, of prayer, of joy and sorrow. As we learn to flow with the anointing, our singing can become prophetic- Christ singing through us!
3. **PLAY MUSIC** 1 Chron. 25:1 Music– even with no words– can be prophetic. (It can also have evil spirits anointing it.) Music can testify of Jesus, such as the joy or the majesty of Christ!
- 1 Samuel 10:5-6, 2 Kings 3:15 Music can bring (or release) the spirit of prophesy.
- The ancient Jewish historian, Josephus, said that when Samuel started the School of the Prophets in Israel, each prophet in training had to learn to play an instrument, as part of their training to learn how to prophesy. The spirit of prophecy may flow through a musical idea (a new song, a loud crash of the cymbals, a gentle flute or chimes, etc)

3 PURPOSES FOR THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

The simple purpose for prophecy is described in 1 Cor. 14:3 as being for edification, exhortation, and comfort. It is not about how to receive deep revelations, see the future, or see secret things. There are other gifts of the Spirit that do this, but the simple, single gift of prophecy works in 3 simple areas:

1. **EDIFICATION** – “To build a home” – to build up, to encourage spiritual growth An example: “For the Lord would say, I am building a mighty army”
2. **EXHORTATION** – “To call for help, to encourage to action” Some examples: “O worship the Lord” “The Lord is coming soon, so be holy” “Revival will come if you will seek the Lord”
3. **COMFORT** – “To speak close” –To speak to the heart. “To console, to speak tenderly with love” Examples: “Thus says the Lord, I have loved you with an everlasting love...” or, “The Lord knows that you are ashamed of your past sins, for they were great – but I have forgiven you – I have washed you whiter than snow – I have clothed you with the robes of righteousness, so lift up your head, my daughter, for you are now a daughter of the King”

These 3 areas are the basic, simple areas that the gift of prophecy will move in UNLESS other gifts of the Spirit are also working with the gift of prophecy. Then revelations, directive prophecy, rebukes, etc. may also come forth through prophesying. Maturing believers may begin to move into these depths of prophetic ministry, especially someone who has been called to a prophetic office.

8 STEPS TO FLOW IN THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1. **SEEK AND RECEIVE THE GIFT!** 1 Cor. 14:1, Matt. 7:7
-God can give the gift direct from heaven, Jam. 1:17
-The gift can be imparted from a person who has that gift, Acts 3:6, 1 Tim. 4:14, 2 Tim. 1:6.
2. **STIR UP THE GIFT** – 2 Timothy 1:6 tell us we must stir up, or kindle afresh, the gift. It is like starting a fire again from burning coals. You must use, develop, & exercise a prophetic gift! If there is no exercise, it will grow weak & sick.
3. **YOU NEED TO DISCERN WHEN GOD IS SPEAKING TO YOUR HEART** -When you have the anointed word of prophecy. In the Hebrew, prophecy is “naba” and means “to flow, boil, bubble, or pour water.” This is what prophetic words should be like! The anointed word is like:
- A FIRE, Jer. 20:9, Ps. 39:3
- A BURDEN – Mal. 1:1, Hab 1:1 A burden or load, a concern
- A JOY – Jer 15:16 Our heart leaps when God quickens us!
4. **YOU NEED TO DISCERN IF GOD IS SPEAKING SOMETHING TO YOU WHICH IS PERSONAL, OR SECRET, AND IS NOT TO BE PUBLICLY PROPHESED.** Sometimes the Lord may only be speaking something personally to you, which is not for others. 1 Kings 17:8-9, Jer. 12:6. At other times the Lord may be telling you a secret that is not yet time to reveal, Lk. 2:19 & 51, 2 Cor 12:4, Rev. 10:3-4.
5. **BE SENSITIVE OF THE RIGHT TIME TO SPEAK**, Eccles 3:7, 1 Cor. 14:31-33. While you feel a prophetic anointing, look for an appropriate time to speak it, such as:
-during worship & waiting on God
-after a sermon or during altar call
-when praying for people
-after someone with a mature gift gets a similar prophetic flow started

6. OPEN YOUR MOUTH AND SPEAK GOD'S WORDS IN FAITH, Rom. 12:6, Rom. 10:17, Ps. 81:10. You must open your mouth and begin to speak. You are not a robot!
7. SPEAK LOUD, CLEAR AND SHORT. Speak loud & clear, like a trumpet, 1 Cor. 14:8-9. Speak short, Eccles. 5:2, Prov. 29:20, Prov.30:5-6. Many times prophecies begin in the spirit and end in the flesh because the person is not sensitive to know when the anointing has lifted and the message of God has finished, Gal.3:3, Jer.15:19.
8. LET YOUR PROPHECY BE JUDGED, 1 Thess. 5:20-21, 1 Cor. 14:29. Purity, safety, growth, and confirmation all are products of having our prophecies judged. PROPHECY SHOULD BE JUDGED BY:
 - a. Is it scriptural? Isaiah 8:19-20
 - b. Does it bear witness to your spirit? Jn. 6:63, Rom. 8:16a, 1 Jn. 2:27, Col 3:15, Acts 16:16-18.
 - c. Is it confirmed by others? 1 Cor. 14:29, 2 Cor. 13:1, Prov. 11:14. Check with spiritual leaders (prophetic leaders when available) for guidance so you can grow in discernment and wisdom. If you feel you have a prophetic word that is not yet confirmed, do not try to fulfill it until it is clearly confirmed by other prophetic words or other spiritual leaders. Confirmations also often add balance. God gave us each 2 eyes and 2 ears!
 - d. If it is a predictive prophecy, does it come to pass? Jer. 32:6-8, Jer. 28:1-17, 1 Sam 3:19, Ezek.13:6. Prophetic ministries should be held accountable for how accurate they are. But remember, some prophecies are conditional, depending on our response to the prophetic word, Heb. 4:2, Isaiah 38:1-5.
 - e. If a revelation is given by the Holy Spirit then it also needs to be interpreted by the Holy Spirit, Gen.41:8, Gal.3:3.

THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET

- God has established prophets in the church, 1 Cor. 12:28, Eph.2:20. Prophets are needed until the church is perfected & fully mature, Eph.4:11-13.
- A prophet is to reveal the plans & works of God, Amos 3:7, Num. 12:6.
- We need to understand & receive from this ministry, 2 Chron. 20:20, Matt. 10:41.
- The prophet has a greater prophetic ministry than someone who can flow in the spirit of prophecy, or than someone who has a gift of prophecy. The mature prophet has a mantle of the spirit of prophecy –he doesn't wait for it to come, he brings it! The mature prophet has more than just the single, simple gift of prophecy –he has other gifts of the Spirit that work with it, so that his prophecies can have more revelation & power.
- The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits are called the 3 revelation gifts that reveal hidden, secret, past or future things to us (1 Cor.12:8-10). The revelation brought by these gifts can be released through the gift of prophecy, so that you prophesy a revelation.
- God is raising up and multiplying the ministry of the prophet, to help prepare the way for the second coming of Christ. A prophet (John the Baptist) was given the spirit & power of Elijah (a mighty prophet's mantle) to prepare the nation of Israel for the 1st coming of Christ, Lk. 1:17&76, Lk. 3:1-6, Mal. 4:5. A company of prophets will receive the mantle of the spirit & power of Elijah in the Last Days, to prepare all nations for the 2nd coming of Christ, Mal. 4:5, Mat. 17:11-13, Rev. 11:3-6

THE OFFICE OF THE PROPHET: 4 LEVELS OF MATURITY

1. **SONS OF THE PROPHETS:** The sons of the prophets are those who has been called to be prophets, but are still immature in their ministry, and are being trained by the more mature prophets. These mature prophets are their “fathers”, either their natural father (if the prophetic mantle has been passed down to the next generation) or their spiritual father (who is training them). The sons of the Prophets are not mentioned by name in the Scriptures. Some scriptural examples are: 2 Kings 2:3, 2:5, 4:1 & 38 &42-43, 6:1, 9:1-4
2. **LOCAL PROPHETS:** A local prophet is what we can call a prophet who has matured into having a ministry that is effective, and recognized by others in their local church or in their local community. They are often not mentioned by name in the scriptures, as their ministry was not as notable as the national or international prophets. Some scriptural examples are: 1 Kings 18:13, Luke 2:36-38, 1 Kings 20:35-43, 2 Chron. 18:4-6.
3. **NATIONAL PROPHETS,** 1 Samuel 3:19-20. A national prophet is a prophet who has become recognized as having an effective ministry to their nation. They will probably travel around their nation (1 Sam. 7:15-17) and will usually influence national leaders, 1 Kngs.18:17-20, 2 Kngs.13:14-19. They will probably not prophesy much about other nations. Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist, Habakkuk, and Deborah are some scriptural examples.
4. **INTERNATIONAL PROPHETS,** Jeremiah 1:4. An international prophet (or, a prophet to the nations) will prophesy to the nations, and probably travel around to other nations regularly (or influence them through their written prophecies, Jer. 29:1,4,30-32). They have a ministry respected among the nations they influence. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Amos and Silas are scriptural examples. Brian Bailey was a modern day example.

PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY OF THE PROPHET

THE CALL: A person cannot decide to become a prophet, he must be called of God. But those whom God wants to prepare to become prophets, must first become aware of the call of God upon their life.

1. **THE CALL MAY COME DIRECTLY FROM GOD:**
 - Jeremiah heard his call, in a word from the Lord, with visions, in Jer. 1:4-13
 - Isaiah was called in a vision of God, Isaiah 6:1-10
 - Ezekiel was called in a vision of God, Ezek. 1:26-2:5
 - A prophet will have visions & dreams, Num. 12:6. These are some of the ways that the Lord will bring revelations.
2. **THE CALL MAY FIRST BE REVEALED TO A MAN (OR WOMEN) OF GOD:**
 - Elijah first heard that Elisha was called to be a prophet, 1 Kings 19:13, 16,19-21
 - David received an anointing from Samuel and became a prophet (and king), 1 Sam. 16:13

PREPARATION FOR THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY:

1. “Many are called, few are chosen” because many will not submit to the preparations for this high calling, Lk.12:48.
2. **BY MEETING WITH GOD,** Num. 12:6. A person can develop a prophetic ministry as they spend much time alone with God. That is why some of the greatest prophets (Moses, David, Elijah, John the Baptist) spent years in the wilderness. See Jer. 15:17, 1 Sam. 2:11

3. **BY BEING DISCIPLED BY A MATURE PROPHET.** Elijah disciplined Elisha as Elisha served him, 1 Kings 19:21, 2 Kings 3:11
 - This could be a senior pastor who is also a prophet, training his assistant pastor or a deacon.
 - Some people receive training by videos, reading books, or by listening to recorded sermons.
4. **BY ATTENDING GROUP TRAINING SESSIONS**
 - Some prophets conduct classes or group training for their students (or “sons of the prophets”):
 - Samuel trained a group of prophets at Naioth (1 Sam. 19:18-24) and Bethel (1 Sam.10:5). The ancient Jewish historian, Josephus, wrote that Samuel began training centers, or schools, of what became known as “the sons of the prophets”, to train & multiply the prophetic ministry.
 - Elijah ministered to groups of “the sons of the prophets” at Bethel (2 Kings 2:3) and Jericho, 2 Kings 2:5.
 - Elisha became the director of “the sons of the prophets” at Jericho (2 Kings 2:15-16) and Gilgal (2 Kings 4:38). When one school became too big, they had to build a larger building, 2 Kings 6:1-2.
 - Some Bible Schools and Discipleship Centers today are actually “schools of the prophets” when the ministry over them has a prophetic mantle and trains the students to flow in the Spirit.

MIXTURE IN PROPHETIC MINISTRY

1. **IMMATURITY**, Rom. 12:3&6. Someone called to the prophetic ministry needs to keep themselves from going beyond their present ability to minister by the Spirit, Ezek.13:6, Ps. 131:1, Job 42:3
 - Ex: brother w/ PROPHET written on his name tag in Baguio
 - Ex: American prophet came in early 1990’s to Manila, flew too high & released foolish mixture
2. **SPIRITUAL MIXTURE.** There are 3 sources of spiritual anointing:
 - a) **THE HOLY SPIRIT** – 2 Sam. 23:2 (a true prophet flows in this anointing)
 - b) **EVIL SPIRITS** – Acts 16:16-18, 2 Chron.18:3-8, 18-22 (a false prophet flows with this)
 - c) **THE HUMAN SPIRIT** – Ezek. 13:1-3, Jer. 23:25-32 (a foolish prophet flows in this)
 - Sometimes there is a mixture of sources:
 - a) Zedekiah had known the anointing, then flowed with a lying spirit, 2 Chron. 18:23.
 - b) Peter was ignorant of the 2 different anointings that flowed thru him in Mt.16:17, 22-23.
 - c) Balaam could flow with both the Holy Spirit and with evil spirits, Num.24:1-4. He was a prophet (2 Pet. 2:16) but a prophet with dangerous mixture!
 - d) King Saul could flow with different prophetic anointings- both good and bad, 1 Sam. 10:10-11, 18:10, 19:23-24, & 28:7-8.
3. **WE MUST JUDGE A PROPHET** not by his gifts, but by his fruit, Matt. 7:15-16
4. **THERE WILL BE MANY FALSE PROPHETS** in the last days, Matt. 24:4-5, 11, 23-27

**WE NEED TO RECEIVE FROM PROPHETIC MINISTRIES,
BUT ALSO BE CAREFUL OF MIXTURE!**

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” –I Thess.5:19-22