

TONGUES OF FIRE

Session 5 – Prophecy

I. The Gift of Prophecy

1. Old Testament Prophecy

Joel 2:28-29

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. KJV¹

We can never afford to forget what makes this such a tremendous promise in the Old Testament. It is precisely because His Spirit couldn't be poured out on everybody that a promise was given that the day would come when He could!

When we read words of prophecy spoken in the Old Testament, we need to remember that they were spoken by and large to people who *didn't have the Holy Spirit abiding upon them, let alone in them!* This has to be understood when we read the manner of communication and reception of these Old Testament prophetic words.

The story of Moses and the seventy dramatically illustrates this point.

Num 11:14-15

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Moses' words could have been written by 90% of the pastorate, if they were honest. Moses expresses the ultimate end of the one-man-ministry: burnout and suicidal depression.

Num 11:16-17

16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

The only thing that allowed Moses to minister in the capacity that he did was the Spirit of the Lord. It wasn't his training in Pharaoh's court, his work in Jethro's household, or any natural ability of his own. What made him an able minister was the Spirit of the Living God resting upon him for ministry. The Lord didn't say, "Pick out some good men and

¹ All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

train them to help you.” No, He said, “Gather the elders and I’ll put my Spirit upon them so that they can help you.”

Num 11:24-25

24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

What did these men do when the Spirit of God came upon them? They prophesied. This form of prophecy in the Old Testament is analogous to our experience with tongues in the New. A person was recognized as having the Spirit upon them not because of anointing oil or tabernacle attendance but because they prophesied.

Num 11:26-28

26 But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp.

27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

Joshua was upset. These men were not only out of order, they were doing that which up till now Joshua had only seen Moses do (and perhaps Miriam): they were prophesying in the camp! What was Moses’ reaction?

Num 11:29

And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

He expresses the hope of the ages and the full counsel of God: would to God that all the Lord’s people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them! We are not only to be desirous of spiritual gifts being evidenced in our own lives, but also in the lives of others! There is no room for the spirit of jealousy when we walk by the Spirit, except it be a jealous spirit for the Lord.

In the Old Testament, anyone who had the Holy Spirit upon them would be called a prophet, whether they walked in the office of a prophet or not. They were referred to as prophets because the primary gift of the Spirit in the Old Testament was prophecy. This being said, there were typically three classifications of people upon whom the Holy Spirit came.

A. Prophets

By this, we mean those men and women who walked in the office of a prophet. This would include people like Moses, Samuel, Miriam, and Deborah.

B. Kings (rulers)

In the classification of kings are included rulers such as the seventy mentioned above. Kings were typically anointed with oil to signify the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

1 Sam 16:1, 13-14

1 And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Hereafter, when David said that he would not lay his hand on the Lord's "anointed," he means that he would not harm one on whom God had placed His Spirit. He would leave that up to the Lord. It is from the Hebrew word for "anointed" that we get the term Messiah (Christ in the Greek). Yeshua the Messiah is Jesus the Anointed One.

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Moses and David both prefigured Christ in that they functioned as prophets, kings, and priests.

C. Priests (and praisers)

All priests were anointed for service. Again, this signified that they needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit to accomplish their work. In this category are included those anointed persons who praised and prophesied in the Tabernacle of David and the Temple.

1 Chron 25:1

Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was:

In the New Testament, Zacharias and Elisabeth give us good examples of this type of prophecy.

Elisabeth:

Luke 1:41-45

- 41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled [pletho] with the Holy Ghost:
- 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
- 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- 44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.
- 45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Zacharias:

Luke 1:67-72

- 67 And his father Zacharias was filled [pletho] with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
- 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
- 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
- 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
- 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
- 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

2. New Testament Prophecy

A. It Is to Be Desired

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

- 1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, **but rather that ye may prophesy.**
- 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.
- 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.
- 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.
- 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:39

Wherefore, brethren, **covet to prophesy,** and forbid not to speak with tongues.

The reason we should desire and covet to prophesy (notice it doesn't say, "desire to hear prophecy" but "desire to prophesy") is because prophecy edifies the church.

B. Operates from the Anointing Upon

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they

spake with tongues, and prophesied.

We don't decide when we will prophesy anymore than we can conjure up an interpretation of tongues. It is distributed according to the will of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:11

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

C. It Is for Sons and Daughters

Acts 2:16-19

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

Peter's quotation of Joel encompasses all three groups of the manifestation gifts.

- Prophecy - Utterance
- Visions and Dreams - Revelation
- Signs and Wonders - Power

Sons and daughters signifies maturity of attitude, those who are determined to be about the Father's business. As Romans 8 teaches us, children cry out, sons are led. We need to grow up into prophecy.

Acts 21:8-9

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Philip's daughters prophesied. The primary indication here is that they operated the gift of prophecy, not the office of prophetesses.

3. Nature of the Gift

A. It Is for Edification, Exhortation, and Comfort

1 Corinthians 14:3

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

The message flows from God to man and is for edification, exhortation, and comfort. It is not for browbeating, doomsdaying, or grandstanding!

B. Has Wide Room for Misuse

Prophecy is listed 6th in the enumeration of the gifts in 1 Cor 12:8-10. Six is not only the number of man, it is one shy of seven and thus incomplete. Interpretation is preceded by speaking in tongues – we are at least already in the “flow” of spiritual utterance. But prophecy comes straight out, like a cold start from a stop light. The opportunity for our souls to be involved is much greater. This is why interpretation is so vital to walk in to grow us into proficient and accurate prophecy. It is in diverse kinds of tongues and interpretation that we learn to feel the Holy Spirit come upon us and recognize His voice.

The Third Commandment is “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.” When we prophesy and say, “Thus saith the Lord” and the Lord didn’t say, we are taking His name in vain. The sixth commandment is “Thou shalt not murder.” If we prophesy falsely, we are in danger of leading men to their deaths and being guilty of murder.

Ezek 13:16-19

- 16 To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.
- 17 Likewise, thou son of man, set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy thou against them,
- 18 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe to the women that sew pillows to all armholes, and make kerchiefs upon the head of every stature to hunt souls! Will ye hunt the souls of my people, and will ye save the souls alive that come unto you?
- 19 And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

Jer 14:13-16

- 13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.
- 14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.
- 15 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.
- 16 And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them.

2 Peter 2:1-3

- 1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false

- teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
- 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
- 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

[See also 1 Kings 13:11-24 and 1 Kings 22:19-23]

C. All Prophecy Must Be Judged

Because of the human involvement in prophecy, all prophecy must be judged. Prophecy can have three points of origin: the spirit of man, an evil spirit, or the Holy Spirit.

Spirit of man:

Jeremiah 23:25-32

- 25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.
- 26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, **they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart:**
- 27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.
- 28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.
- 29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?
- 30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.
- 31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.
- 32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness [*recklessness*]; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

Evil Spirit:

1 Kings 22:19-23

- 19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.
- 20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.
- 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

23 Now therefore, behold, **the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets**, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

Deuteronomy 18:20

But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, **or that shall speak in the name of other gods**, even that prophet shall die.

The Holy Spirit:

1 Sam 10:9-11

9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?

When the Holy Spirit came upon Saul, it led him to prophesy. But look what he did after the Spirit had left him and an evil spirit was afflicting him.

1 Sam 18:10-11

10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

Clearly, Saul was no longer under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Yet, he was still prophesying. This apparently didn't raise any eyebrows because people were used to Saul prophesying. The point is that action seemed the same, but the source was entirely different!

We need to judge the content of any prophecy by the revealed and written word of God. This is a standard that God even applies to Himself.

Ps 138:2

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name .

God has placed His word above His name!

2 Peter 1:17-21

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Peter calls the written Scripture as a “more sure word of prophecy” than even an audible voice from God out of the Shekinah cloud! Scripture holds higher authority than prophecy. Therefore, prophecy must be judged by Scripture. If Scripture says that God hates divorce and someone prophesies over you to get a divorce, you must judge the prophecy to be false.

In the same vein, we must judge the “spirit” with which the word is delivered. It could be an accurate word, but delivered with the wrong attitude of heart.

John 11:47-53

47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

51 **And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;**

52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

Caiaphas spoke a true word, but his heart was full envy, jealousy, and murder!

Numbers 20:9-11

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Moses took the rod like the Lord had commanded him and he did get water, but he did it in anger and failed to treat the Lord with holy respect. Remember that the Rock he was beating was Christ. Compare this attitude to the removal of his shoes before the burning bush. His delivery of this prophetic act in an angry spirit caused him not to be able to enter into the Promised Land.

Jonah 3:10-4:4

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

3 Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.

4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

Jonah delivered the prophetic word of repentance, but he did it out of compulsion not compassion. He was hoping that Nineveh wouldn't repent so that the Lord would destroy them! It was his knowledge of the Lord's mercy that caused him to run away from his assignment in the first place. He gave the right message in the wrong heart. We need to ask ourselves whether the word given was edifying, exhorting, and comforting. Finally, our spirits should bear witness with true words through the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Ministry of the Prophet

1. Old Testament

A. God's Spokesman

The Old Testament prophet was God's spokesman. The Spirit was not widely available. As an anointed one, the prophet helped to teach Scripture, lead worship, interpret the times, and give direction to the people and the nation.

B. Prefigured Christ

All true prophets in the Old Testament prefigured the Prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Deut 18:15-19

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

It was with this promise in mind that many of the people said of Jesus that “this is the Prophet.”

John 7:37-40

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

C. Source of Hearing from God

In the Old Testament, the prophet was the only place one could go to get a “word” from God. This is not the case today, for every believer has the Holy Spirit abiding within them. We should always ask the Prophet before we go seeking a word from a prophet!

2. New Testament

A. Five-fold Ministry

The prophetic office is one of the five-fold ministries given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose of:

- Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry
Ephesians 4:11-13
11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
- Establishing the church
1 Corinthians 12:28
And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

“Secondarily prophets” – The number two is the number of establishment in Scripture.

Eph 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

This establishing function would incorporate the visionary gifts and directions from the prophet. Often times, the Lord will reveal the *what* to the prophets and the *how* and authority to carry it out to the apostles.

- Ordaining other five-fold ministers

We see this in the life of Timothy:

1 Timothy 1:18

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

1 Timothy 4:14

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

The analogous function in the Old Testament is the use of prophets to anoint and ordain kings, priests, and other prophets.

B. Encouragers

Acts 4:36-37

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. NKJV

Barnabas is *bar + nabas*, in Hebrew “son of prophecy.” Prophecy by interpretation is encouragement.

Acts 13:1

Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain **prophets** and teachers; as **Barnabas**, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Acts 15:32

Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words. NKJV

C. Operate Proficiently in the Revelatory Gifts

The case of Paul's journey to Jerusalem affords us with a good contrast between the gift of prophecy and the ministry of the prophet.

Acts 21:8-9

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

These girls prophesied in a house church context. But while they stayed there, the Lord sent another type of prophetic word to Paul.

Acts 21:10-11

10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Agabus was a proven prophet.² It isn't general exhortation that he speaks but a specific prophetic word to Paul of what is going to occur in the future should he persist in going to Jerusalem.

3. Personal Prophecies

A. Out of Revelatory Gifts – Prophetic Words from the Body

When you are being ministered to by a prophetic presbytery, understand that any directive or specific words *typically* arise from the revelatory gifts: word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discerning of spirits. This is a different operation than speaking by inspiration. The gift of prophecy prepares us for walking in the revelatory gifts.

B. Out of Revelatory Ministry – Prophetic Words from Prophets

The prophetic words of prophets work through the same revelatory gifts available to every believer. The difference is that they are walking in an anointing that makes them particularly proficient in these gifts.

It is *typically* in the ministry of a prophet that we hear directive words, ordaining words, and foretelling words as well as the encouraging and general words given through the gift of prophecy.

C. Seeking God's Face – Is It God You're Chasing?

The prophetic is still very popular in charismatic circles. Because of presumption and wrong teaching, many who are not called as prophets have tried to function as such. And people have pursued a "word" from prophetic conferences at the risk of sacrificing the Word and intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

² See Acts 11:27-29

We need to make sure that we seek His presence and word with greater frequency and zeal than we ever pursue a prophetic word from man!

III. Prophesying

1. Works from the Anointing Upon

Because of the training we have received in diverse kinds of tongues, we should be more proficient at recognizing when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Many of the same “feelings” that you sense when a diverse tongue is brought forth will be attendant when the Holy Spirit comes upon you to bring forth a word of prophecy.

2. When the Lion Roars, Speak!

Amos 3:7-8

7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

Though these verses are specifically addressing the ministry of a prophet, the principle remains the same: when the Lion roars, prophesy! This describes the “coming upon” of a strong prophetic word. But more often than not, they come in the “still, small voice.”

One of the symbols in the word of God for the Holy Spirit is water. Water has a distinctive sound whenever it is pouring, running, rushing, or dripping. Have you ever had a dripping faucet in your house? It has a way of keeping your attention, doesn't it? The Holy Spirit will often do a similar thing. He will drop a word in your spirit and keep dripping it until you speak it out.

Ezek 21:2

Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy word toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel,

The Hebrew word translated “drop” in this verse is *nataph* [OT:5197] and it means to distill gradually or fall in drops and by implication means to speak by inspiration. This teaches not only about how the word comes to us, but also how to deliver it. Again, this is speaking by inspiration. Once you speak the first word (or picture) He will give you the second and then the third and so on.

Judg 13:24-25

24 And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

25 And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

The Hebrew word translated “move” in verse 25 is *pa'am* [OT:6470]. It means to tap or beat regularly and thus to impel or agitate. This is what a prompting of the Holy Spirit

will do. He keeps tapping on you until you act or (God forbid) determine that you aren't going to.

When He drops a word in your spirit, your understanding will pick up. This word will have an origination point that is not you. In other words, it will not be traceable to your thought pattern (which is a good reason why you should be cognizant of what you are thinking). When that happens, speak it out. When the first word is spoken, He'll give you the next one and so on until the message is complete.

3. Be Moved by the Spirit

2 Peter 1:21

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The prophets of old were carried along by the move of the Holy Spirit. The image is of a ship on the water – pushed by the wind and carried by the flow. He is the water and the wind. We need to lift our sails and go with the flow.