

Why the Prophetic Matters

1. The prophetic precedes the move of God.

When we cut off the *prophetic* we quench the Holy Spirit.

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good...” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-20)

“Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19 AMP)

Let's say you invited someone to your house to hang out. But every time they wanted to talk, you rolled your eyes and said,

- *“We don't tolerate that here. You should have been done speaking. If you really want to speak, you should have just texted it to me, like a few thousands years ago. Please stay, how we love your presence. Just don't interrupt by saying anything. We love you and you are welcomed in this place...”*

How would your guest feel?

- A bit *quenched* to say the least.
- That's what happens to the Holy Spirit when we are closed off to the prophetic. If you want your guest to feel welcomed, you have to welcome their voice.

When someone's voice is welcomed, they feel honored. And they tend to talk more. They release their full *personality*, rather than holding back. When the Holy Spirit feels comfortable, the more He releases His power and glory— His ability and His beauty.

- Then we can say what David said, "*I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.*" (Psalm 63:2).

***"For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets."* (Amos 3:7)**

Before the Lord moves on the earth, He speaks about what He is going to do. If we want to see God move, we can't be closed off to the *prophetic*.

A few examples:

- Anna and Simeon (Luke 2:22-38)
- John the Baptist (Mark 1:1-3)
 - The prophetic prepares the way for what the Lord is about to release on the earth.
 - When revelation and promise from heaven **meets** agreement and faith on earth — heaven invades earth.

2. The prophetic is more about friendship with God than having a powerful ministry.

The ultimate goal of growing in the prophetic is a *deeper friendship with God, not just a dynamic ministry.*

“The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do...” (Genesis 18:17)

“descendants of Abraham my friend.” (Isaiah 41:8)

Just being gifted does not mean we are intimate. The purest prophetic voices are those who walk closely with the Lord.

***“The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him”
(Psalm 25:14 ESV)***

“The LORD confides in those who fear him...” (Psalm 25:14 NIV)

There are two ways we can get revelation: Through *gifting* or through *intimacy*.

- The second is far superior than the first.
- Those who depend on the first, while squandering the second, will not end well.

The Confusing Question:

Why would God give prophetic gifts to those who aren't intimate with Him?

1. You can have a gift from God without walking with Him.

“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

(Romans 11:29)

John Paul Jackson taught that gifting was like a satellite dish — it did not mean that we have a deep walk with the Lord. It didn't mean we are receiving signals from the throne. He believed that physics were also given their gift by God. But that doesn't mean they are walking closely with God. They can be getting signals from other places, than the heart of God, but they have an amazing ability to get signals.

- Natural gifting is also from God, regardless of what people do with them.
- Just because we are getting some revelation doesn't mean it's from the Lord and that we are walking with Him.

This becomes very confusing to the gifted and those following the gifted.

Because there is an *assumption* that those who have a tremendous gift have a tremendous walk. (Another assumption is that gifting equals maturity in character — which the Corinthian church should have clarified for us.)

1. So the gifted one may think he's OK with God, because the gifts still work.
2. Those following the gifted one can assume the person they are following is walking closely with God, because the gifts continue to *wow* us.

We know that Jesus said that people can do amazing things for Him, but that doesn't mean that He knows them:

“Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”
(Matthew 7:22-23)

Peter warned against “the way of Balaam,” (II Peter 2:15).

Jude warned against “the error of Balaam” (Jude 11).

John against “the doctrine of Balaam” (Revelation 2:14).

Balaam had a real gifting and calling from God, and therefore received revelations from God. He did not have the heart of God.

- He was more motivated by *selfish greed* than the love of God.
- He cared more about *personal gain* than blessing the people.

It never ends well for those who are more into their gifting and calling than their intimacy with the Lord.

2. The prophetic can come on those who are in the company of the prophets.

There is a corporate anointing that we should not be confused with your personal walk.

We need the corporate anointing, and many times we first get touched in that environment. However, we need to develop a personal walk. We can't depend on someone else's anointing like King Saul depended on his *harpist*.

Speaking of King Saul, he had the Spirit come upon him even when he was trying to kill David. His heart wasn't in the right place, but he still operated in the gift.

“8 When David had fled and made his escape, he went to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. Then he and Samuel went to Naioth and stayed there. 19 Word came to Saul:

“David is in Naioth at Ramah”; **20** *so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came on Saul’s men, and they also prophesied. 21 Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied. 22 Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Seku. And he asked, “Where are Samuel and David?” “Over in Naioth at Ramah,” they said. 23 **So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God came even on him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. 24 He stripped off his garments, and he too prophesied in Samuel’s presence. He lay naked all that day and all that night. This is why people say, “Is Saul also among the prophets?”** (1 Samuel 19:8-24)*

3. The ability may not be from the Holy Spirit, but a demonic spirit.

“Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved’ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.”
(Acts 16:16-18)

- If and when we are full of the Holy Spirit, our heart is to glorify Jesus Christ (John 16:14).
- If and when we are full of the Holy Spirit, we will take on the character of Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:22-23).

Processing Prophetic Revelation

We should expect revelation:

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28)

Not all revelation is going to be plain and simple:

“I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables.” (Hosea 12:10)

Therefore, we need to receive **revelation**, then we need to pray for the right **interpretation**, and pray for the right **application**.

- 1. Revelation:** What is said, seen, sensed, felt, or experienced.
- 2. Interpretation:** What it means.
- 3. Application:** What we should do with it.

2 Case Studies:

1. A prophet sees a vision of a dollar bill on top of someone’s head and saw a dark cloud around it (**revelation**). He saw it over a man who was an elder in the church. And he says to the man, “there is

a sin in your finances” (**interpretation**). The man was a wealthy man, but also a generous donor, and walked in high integrity with an impeccable reputation. His pastor couldn’t imagine he would be engaged in financial impropriety. The elder who received the prophetic word defended himself. A few weeks later, one of the elders employees was caught embezzling money from the company.

2. Jack Deere saw the words BLOOD PRESSURE (**revelation**), and felt it was a word of knowledge. He asked the lady if she had high blood pressure (**interpretation**). She said, “no”. He asked if anyone in her family had high blood pressure. She said, “no”. He asked if anyone sitting next to her had high blood pressure. They said, “no.” He apologized for missing the word. Later that woman he first approached with the word said that her husband was suffering from low blood pressure and was fainting regularly. Jack realized that he got the right revelation, but jumped to conclusions too quickly and missed the interpretation of the revelation.

REVELATION: “What is said or seen.”

It can be in the form of a Scripture, a vision, a dream, an impression, or a word.

We record the revelation and think upon it.

- We would do well to write down the revelation (Habakkuk 2:2) if we can.
- Daniel writes the vision down (Daniel 7:1).

When Mary was given a prophetic word, she **“pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).**

When Peter had a vision, he was **“still thinking about it”** and then **“the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you.’” (Acts 10:19)**

The Lord makes it harder so we will seek Him out: **“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.” (Proverbs 25:2)**

INTERPRETATION: “What it means.”

This requires humility rather than pride (Psalm 25:9).

Rather than becoming presumptuous, we ask God for understanding:

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” (James 1:5)

Rick Joyner's insights into why we often miss the interpretation.

- Because the right interpretation means we have to see from the Lord's perspective and through the eyes of love, not fear:

"If we are going to see from the Lord's prospective, we must update and that He is not sitting in heaven wringing His hands and worrying about anything...The gift of discernment is required for interpretation, but many fall into the trap of substituting suspicion for true discernment. That is rooted in fear, which will always distort our perception. The discernment can only operate in godly love: "perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18)". "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and if we are going to see with His eyes, we must see through the eyes of love. God certainly is not afraid of the enemy, and anything that is colored by fear is a distortion of true spiritual vision....I am very wary of any warning that I am given with the spirit of fear attached to it. The paranoia that some sow throughout the body is far more damaging than the supposed attacks or problems they claim to be protecting us from...The first calling of the prophetic ministry is to prepare the way for the King, not looking for the enemy....Looking more for the enemy than for the Lord will put us in jeopardy of becoming the 'faultfinders' that we are all warned about in Jude 16...."

APPLICATION: “What we do with it.”

When giving a word:

- When to release the word.
- How to release the word.

When you received a word:

- What is the Lord saying to you?
- What would the Lord have you do?

Acts 21:10-14:

“After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’ 12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, ‘Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.’ 14 When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.”

Revelation: Danger is ahead of Paul (all agreed). **Interpretation:** Paul will suffer (all agreed). **But what was to be the application?** Paul’s friends didn’t want him to go to Jerusalem. Paul felt the Lord was showing him what he would suffer not to PREVENT HIM from going but to PREPARE HIM for the pain he will experience.