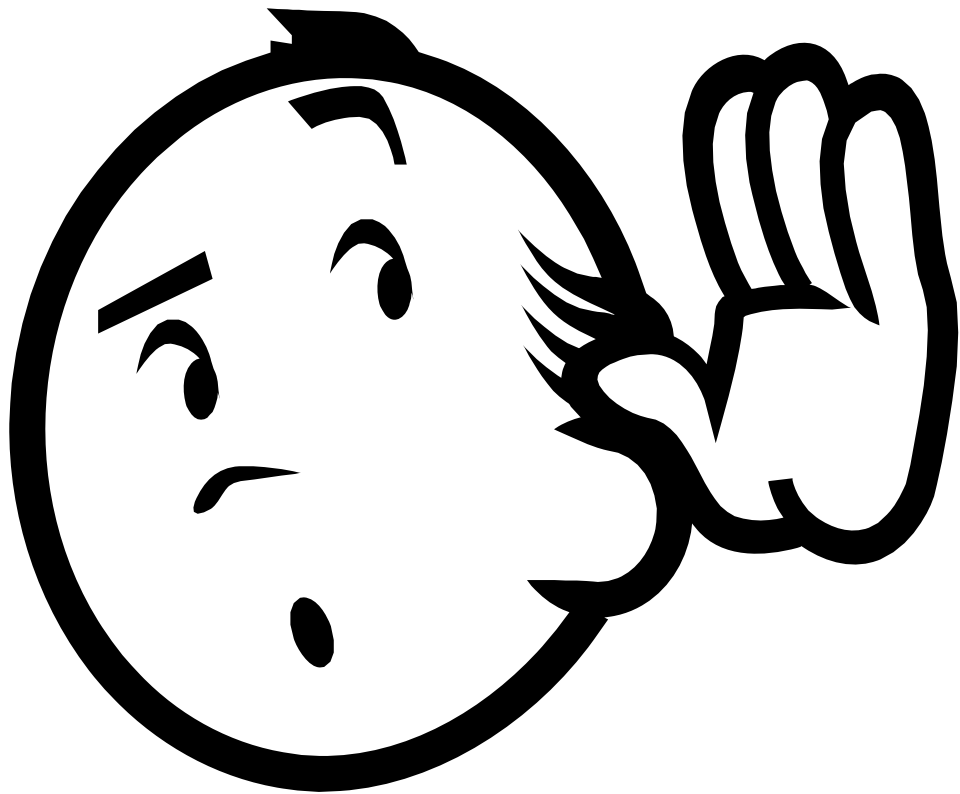




Divine Communication:

The Voice of God

A Comprehensive Study of Hearing God and Speaking for God



“Let Him who has ears to hear, hear!”



Welcome to

Divine Communication - The Voice of God

1. Course Overview: This course is designed to introduce you to some of the major philosophies and skills to develop your ministry. In it you will learn. . .
 - That God is a God who loves to communicate
 - Basic principles of hearing God's voice
 - Different ways God speaks to us
 - How to move into the prophetic gifts

2. Course Goals: By the end of this course, we would like you to:
 - To become convinced that God is always speaking
 - To become assured that you can and will hear His Voice
 - To move out into a prophetic lifestyle

3. Follow-up Study: To obtain full credit and benefit from this class, you must complete the following two assignments:
 - a. Read through all lessons not covered.

 - b. Read the Follow up reading assignments on the web site www.prepareinternational.org under the course title.
 - Four Keys to Hearing God by Dr. Mark Virkler
 - How to Listen to God by Gene A. Veal

 - c. Write a 3-5 page paper answering the two following questions:
 - What most struck you about God's ability to speak?
 - Why must we live a life full of divine communication?
 - How do you most hear God and describe your experiences?
 - What did you learn about the prophetic gifts and what must you do to move out into a prophetic lifestyle?

4. Sources for this manual:
 - Tape Series by Rodney Howard Brown: *Hearing God*
 - Single Tape by Paul Cain on *Hearing God*
 - A. W. Tozier – *The Pursuit of God*
 - Chuck Pierce – *Activating the Prophetic Within*
 - Cindy Jacobs – *Beginning Steps in Prophecy*



NEW WINE

Divine Communication

3



Part #1: The Speaking God & the Hearing Ear

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1



Reflection: Why and how does God communicate with His people today?

Describe your life in the area of hearing God?

Any man untaught in the Scriptures as he picked up the Bible and read these words would come to one conclusion: ***IT IS THE NATURE OF GOD TO SPEAK, TO COMMUNICATE HIS THOUGHTS TO OTHERS.*** And he would be right. This comment about the Son of God doesn't just say that He speaks though; it implies something much deeper - that His very nature is communication. We serve a God of communication. It is built into the very fabric of His Divine Being, and He is ever seeking to speak Himself out to His creation.

If that is His nature, to be a communicating God, then it seems to reason that He created man to hear Him and relate to Him.

“The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both of them” Prov 20:12

God designed us- His prime creation – to hear Him. He wove it within our very nature and being just like speaking and communicating are woven into His. Look at the record of those who have gone before us:

- God spoke and Noah heard and responded.
- God spoke and Abraham heard and responded.
- God spoke and Jacob heard and responded.
- God spoke and David heard and responded.
- God spoke and Jesus heard and responded.
- God spoke and Paul heard and responded.
- God spoke and Ananias heard and responded.

The story of the Bible is the story of a speaking God and a hearing people. This is life as it should be.

The Speaking God



The “Speaking Voice’ and the “Spoken Word”

Many people believe that God spoke many years ago, it was recorded and then He has ceased to speak clearly and definitively today. It is believed by many that the Scriptures are *the* Word of God. It is here that we must make a distinction between the “*spoken Word of God*” and “*the speaking voice of God.*”

The Bible is the written Word of God, and because it is written, it is confined and limited to the pages of a book. The voice of God however is eternal, alive, and as free as the living God Himself is free. Jesus said, “. . . the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” John 6:63 The life is in the speaking voice. When words come out of God’s mouth, they are filled with life and power. God’s written word in the Bible takes on God’s life and power as He speaks them into our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit. It is the present Voice which makes the written Word all-powerful.

We must learn to differentiate between *the voice of God* and *the word of God*. The voice of God is that part of His Eternal Being which livingly speaks something forth. It is a part of Him, it is alive, it is filled with His power, it is His voice. The words that He speaks on the other hand are something that comes out of Him and when they were written down, they took on the boundaries of paper, time, space, and humanness. These written words are definitely the Word of God, but He is still speaking today because He is NOT silent. When man engages the written word and God speaks to Him from the Scriptures, they take on all of the life and power of God Himself, for the living God has once again spoken!

God speaks to His creation in so many ways. He is in no way limited to the Bible, the voice of the Holy Spirit or even prophecy for creation itself speaks forth the glory of God.

“The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.” Ps 19:1

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made. . .” Rom 1:20



Bible Study: **God’s Powerful Voice** – Listen to some of the things the Bible says about this powerful *speaking Voice of God*:
Ps 33:6,9; Heb 11:3; Ps 18:13; Ps 29:3-9; Ps 68:33

The Bible says that he created with His voice, He rules with His voice, He judges with His voice, He gives life with His voice, and above all, He is ever speaking. He is still the speaking God today!



In all of these passages, we must remember that God is NOT referring here to His written word, but to His speaking voice, that world-filling voice which antedates the Bible into the eons of eternity past, that voice that has not been silent since the dawn of creation.

God is here, with us and among us, and He is speaking! These truths are the foundations of all other Bible truths; without them, we will never know Him or understand His truth of the Bible. He did not write a book and then expect us to understand divine revelation and truth with our natural minds. He spoke forth a Book and lives in His spoken Word, but He also lives today to constantly speak to us in many other areas of life personally and powerfully.

Rhema and Logos – As you study the different words for “word” in NT Greek, you come across two different words **logos** and **rhema**. These two words give us a fair understanding of these concepts.

- Logos = a word spoken and understood secondhand, that is, a word that was not heard directly from the mouth or by the voice of the speaker.
- Rhema = a word spoken and heard directly first hand from the mouth and through the voice of the speaker.

The basic thought behind these two words is that one is a **past spoken word** and the other is the **now speaking word** of God. This is a powerful distinction. As you study these two words in Scriptures, it does not appear that they are used in this way every time, but the basic concepts do apply to the way God’s word and God’s voice works in our lives. Look at a few things the Bible says about this **now speaking word** of God, embodied in the concept of **rhema** –



Bible Study: Matt 4:4; John 6:63; John 6:68; Rom 10:17; Heb 1:3

In these verses where God had the concept of rhema chosen to express His word, we find things like:

- Man must have a living word from God to live upon
- His rhema words are spirit and life to His followers
- Faith comes to the human heart by rhema words from Christ
- He holds all things together by His powerful rhema word



Discussion: With a partner, describe in your own words the difference between logos and rhema. How has receiving a rhema word from God touched and changed your life?



But there is one more verse about rhema that we must consider.

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

This is one of the explanations of Gabriel to Mary when she asked Him how she would have a child while she had never known a man. To the first observation, this verse has nothing to do with the word rhema, but the literal Greek translation says, "**For no rhema of God lacks power!**"

When Mary needed the explanation for this supernatural miracle that was about to occur, one of the things Gabriel told her was that when God gives you this living, rhema word, it literally carries His own life and power to come to pass. This is the power of rhema. These **now speaking words** of God carry His very life and power in them to see fulfillment come to our lives!

The Hearing Ear

God is always ever speaking, revealing Himself and His plan to men, and He has created us to hear Him and interact with Him. God gave us five senses to interact with the natural world so that we can take in all of the created world around us. In the same way, the scripture says that He has given us spiritual senses in much the same way to interact with Him and to hear Him in all of His speaking.



Bible Study: Ps 34:8; John 10:27; Heb 11:27; 1 John 1:1

Perhaps these are only metaphorical, the Bible speaks of tasting the Lord, of hearing Him, of seeing Him, and of touching Him. More likely than merely being metaphors, God has given all of us spiritual senses to **hear Him** as He speaks and then to **interact** with our Great Unseen Friend. We have been given all of the spiritual tools to fully interact with this great speaking God for . . . **The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made both of them.**

Man's Problems

So why doesn't man hear Him and see Him and receive His divine communication? Jesus lived and spoke among people like this and one time He described what He saw. . .

Read: Matt 13:13-16

For most people, they **don't want** to hear and they are just not listening. Our eternal good depends upon our hearing, but we have trained our ears not to hear. When the Father spoke to Jesus from the cloud all heard the voice, but the testimony of the people was. . . "*It thundered.*" They had so dulled their hearts to desiring to know Him and hear Him that they explained away His voice. Most



people just don't want to listen just like Jesus said – ***they have closed their eyes lest they should see.***

He also points to another group in this statement. Those who have grown so dull of heart that they **CAN'T** hear. Mankind because he has become increasingly secular and humanistic, trusting entirely in himself has so dulled these spiritual senses that he no longer hears anything except himself and the world around him. Jesus said it like this. . . ***For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear. . .***

How did this happen? How and what caused man to lose his natural God-given ability to hear? The Apostle Paul tells gives us insights when he said. . .

READ: Rom 1:20-25

Jesus tells us that the condition of men's hearts determine their ability to hear Him speak and then Paul goes on to say that men's hearts become darkened and their thoughts futile because they turn away from God and serve the world and the things of man. Man has lost the ability to hear and the ability to interact with Him because we have become servants of the things of this world and servants of ourselves. Our hearts have become darkened and the spiritual sensitivities have been dulled by a man centered philosophy of life.

Whoever Will Listen. . .

. . . will hear the speaking Heaven. These are not the days when men want to listen. We would rather be filled with noise, activity, size, and money at the expense of hearing Him. To a people caught in a great storm of life, God has said, ***BE still, and know that I am God.*** In learning to still our hearts and know Him and His voice will come the greatest surprise of our souls – The Speaking Voice of God.

First it will come like a distant sound of *One walking in the garden*. But if we don't quit or give up in these early days, it will then grow upon us as a *voice, a little more intelligible, but still afar off and not so clear*. Then the happy day dawns when He *illuminates the Scriptures or speaks clearly to our hearts* and we have heard the voice of our Beloved clearly, lovingly and with power! It is so warm, so intimate, so near. It is God. Then will come light and life and best of all the ability to see and embrace the Lord Jesus as Savior, and Lord, and Life, and All.

As you come to know that voice, you will realize that a Friendly Heaven is speaking to you. So many know God as the vengeful One who is eternally displeased with them and if they draw too near to Him, it would be deadly. We are like the children of Israel when they told Moses, "***Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, lest we die. 20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin." Exod 20:19-20***



But as you hear this voice, you will discover that the Voice of God is a friendly Voice. No one need fear to hear Him unless they have already made up their mind to resist. The blood of Jesus has done such a mighty work for all creation that the Apostle Paul wrote, ***“and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, {I say} whether things on earth or things in heaven.” Col 1:20***

“Lord teach me to listen. The times are noisy and my ears are weary with the thousand blaring sounds which assault them. Give me the spirit of the boy Samuel when he said, ‘Speak, for thy servant heareth.’ Let me hear You speaking in my heart; let me get used to the sound of Your voice, that its tones may be familiar when the sounds of earth die away and the only sound will be the music of Your speaking voice. Amen.”



Part 2: God's Voice in the New Testament

As we begin to step a bit deeper into hearing God's Voice, let's begin with this question:



Reflection: How did God speak in the days of the early church in the New Testament?

Does He still speak like this today? How do you know?

Supernatural Communication in Acts

Even a casual reading in the Book of Acts would bring the conclusion: ***God still speaks clearly today.***



Bible Study: Read Acts 2. 17 & 18. Describe what you see to be the primary work the Holy Spirit does in us as we receive Him.

The promise of Joel 2 and Acts 2 is that when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, the primary trait will be that they will become a prophetic people with everyone hearing God for themselves.

Jesus also promised that His people would be able to follow Him because they would hear and know His voice clearly.

" . . . and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name, and leads them out. . . he goes before them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice." John 10:3-4

As you study Acts, you will discover that the Lord speaks 27 times in 28 chapters. He again reveals Himself as the speaking God. He is intimately at work with His servants, loving them, speaking to them, and guiding them into fruitful living and service.

How does He speak:

- The voice of the Holy Spirit = 7 times
- Angelic visitation = 6 times
- A vision or trance = 6 times



- Prophecy = 5 times
- Tongues = 3 times



Discussion: With a partner, answer the following questions:

1. When you see how many times He spoke in Acts, what conclusions can you draw?

When you look at the breakdown of how and how many times each, what comes to your mind?

Conclusions

- Many times it was in a combination of these that He spoke at one time.
- God clearly led, directed, and spoke to His people.
- There are more recorded Angelic visitations in the NT than in the OT.
- Some of the divine communication is very spectacular in appearance (Angelic visitation) and other was very simple – the voice of the Spirit in the heart.
- We must conclude: God was living in the midst of His people, speaking to them often in love and the leading of their lives.



Application: Is this the reality of your life and experience?
Is this the reality of the other Christians that you know?
Will you settle for less?



Part #3: Hearing God's Voice

As we begin and develop our lives of ministry, one of the greatest needs is to learn to consistently hear God's voice. Jesus has not left and left us an incredible job to do on our own. He does speak, He does lead, He does guide us into His perfect will and work in many ways. The goal of this lesson is to open up our hearts and minds to how God speaks to us and specifically how does He speak to **YOU!**

God Gets His Men's Attention

In Matthew 17.1-5, we find an amazing story of three of these first followers and ministers of Jesus up on a mountain with Him. He is transfigured before them and they see Him in all of His glory. Together with Him is Moses and Elijah. Imagine, what an experience it must have been for these men. In the midst of this incredible revelation, the cloud of the Father's own glory begins to overshadow them and the Father Himself speaks to them. He could have said anything because these men were awed and overcome with the glory of God, but this is what He said, ***"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"***

A longterm missionary to Africa was asked what God had spoken to him lately. His reply was that God had not given him any big, new instructions in many years. The man talking to him was astounded, but the missionary went on to say that they had planted many churches, led thousands to Christ, started many Christian schools and orphanages, and how God was upon them and blessing all that they did. He finished by saying, *"It seems to be working well. If He wants us to change, I guess He'll tell us."*

Hearing His Son and listening to Him was the Father's big statement. I am convinced it is still the primary responsibility and need today for those who minister. There are so many who just minister out of their own understanding and their own minds instead of hearing Him and following Him.

Four Extremes in Hearing God's Voice

1. God wrote a book and lost His voice – many believe that after the Bible was completed, God stopped speaking to us directly and only speaks through the Scriptures.
2. Moses' Syndrome – You, oh Holy Man, go up on the mountain with God and let Him speak to you and then come down and tell us what He said. These people do acknowledge that God still speaks, but they make the error that He only speaks to special people.



3. I want to hear Him, but I can't – So many believers and servants of Jesus find themselves in this category. For some reason they think that He speaks to everyone else, but not to them. This is not true at all, but the key is to learn to tune in and discern His speaking.

4. God speaks to me all the time about everything – A last extreme in hearing God's voice is this one. It does not appear to be the case in the Bible that God is speaking to people all the time and about every incident. These people could be subject to hyper-spiritualism.



Discussion: Take a few minutes and discuss with a partner your experience, joys, and frustrations in hearing God's voice.

Which of the above descriptions do you find yourself most often?

The Promise of His Voice John 10.3-5

Jesus has given us many assurances and promises in the Bible that He will speak to His followers. We can rest assured that He will speak consistently to you and you can learn to hear Him and know His voice.



Bible Study: Read John 10.3-5 and describe everything you find about hearing His voice in this passage.

Illustration

Someone might call me on the telephone and I **hear** their voice, but I might not know it or recognize it very well, but when my wife calls me, I immediately **know** her voice because through years of hearing I have come to know it.

1. A Promise – My Sheep **Hear** My voice
2. An Assurance – I Know Each of My Sheep Personally By Name
3. A Statement – We can follow Him to the degree that we **Know** His voice
4. A Warning – Other voices will speak to you and you must learn to discern and not follow



The Other Voices (strangers John 10.5)

As we develop our lives of walking and serving Christ, always seeking to hear His voice and to join Him in what He is doing, we will encounter many other voices. Jesus called these the voice of the stranger. Some of these other voices are bent of leading us astray and others are just well meaning people who don't know any better. The key is to learn the difference between His voice and these others.

1) The voice of the World (1 John 5.19)

The first voice we need to learn to deal with the is the voice of the world. In every nation, the spirit of the world has shaped culture, those unique things we hold dear and valuable. Within all culture there are things that will not hinder Christ or the Gospel, but there are other things that will stand in His way and oppose Him.

Our culture often shapes our lifestyle and faith in God. There are many things we do and believe in the church that are NOT Christ or Kingdom minded, they have drifted in from our culture. It is critical to discover. . .

What is really Jesus and what is really cultural Christianity? **Note:** The spirit of the world 1 John 2.15-17

2. The voice of the Religious Spirit (Matt 16.6)

The Religious spirit are powerful spirits masquerading as the voice of God. They come to seekers of God or well-meaning servants of Christ and infiltrate our ability to hear God and follow Him in a living relationship replacing the life and work of the Spirit for outward spiritual activities. In 2 Cor. 11.13-14 Paul tells us that Satan displays himself as an *angel of light*. An angel is a messenger and Jesus said that He was the light, therefore, we learn from this that Satan and his demons will masquerade themselves as the voice and leading of Jesus our light if we let them.

Jesus said, "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Matt 16:6

Pharisees = those who focused all of their lives on outer, external religious activities, duties, and observances but had no real life in the Spirit with God.
Sadducees = a group of religious people who sought God, but did not believe in the supernatural activity of God in our lives today.

The Religious Voice operates in several ways:

- A voice constantly driving you to do more religious works, and "higher" spirituality
- Or the replacing of the life of the Spirit for outward religious works and duties
- A voice focusing you on always learning and using your logical mind instead of relating to God in a supernatural way by His Spirit.
- They long to replace the voice of the Holy Spirit with your own mental reasoning or outer works.

3. The voice of Other People



At times, well meaning people will give us advice and influence us, but not to the will and ways of God. They are often speaking out of unrenewed minds and hearts. People can give us spiritual advice and teaching but be totally off of the mind of Christ.



Bible Study: Read Matt 16.21-23. Describe Peter in this instance as one of these other voices. Why was He NOT at this point being a voice for the Lord?

We are never to isolate ourselves from people and the Bible is full of teaching about seeking the counsel of wise, Spirit led people, but the bottom line is we must learn to hear His voice.

4. The voice of Our Own Soul

This is the loudest voice of all. The bottom line comes down to “Is this me or am I hearing God.” Everything passes through our souls. It is the filter for everything we hear therefore we must learn to discern what is coming up out of ourselves and what is coming from the Lord.

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit lives in our spirit and that that is where He speaks to us. But as the word come into our spirit man, it must then pass into our soul – our mind, emotions, and will. The key is learning to discern where the origination of all that flows into our soul is.

Some problem areas we might encounter in our soul being a clean filter for His voice to come through are. . .

Unhealed emotions

Unrenewed minds

Jer. 14.15 – Men who heard and spoke out of their own souls

One of the great keys to learning to discern is this from me or Him is found in Hebrews 4.12. “For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” In these verses, we learn that God’s powerful word will do a deep work in us. One of these works is to pierce deep within us exposing to us the division between the soul and the spirit, that is, what is of my soul and what is of the spirit within me. This work is one we must all seek from the Lord for without it, we will always be playing a guessing game in hearing His voice.

You can learn not just to **hear** His voice, but to **know it**.

This is one of the great keys to following Him and being effective in the ministry on a day to day basis.



Application: What voice have you been listening to most often in your life?

What do you need to do to begin a deeper, clearer life of hearing His voice?



Part #4 How God Speaks to Us

We have learned that God speaks to us, but the question is: **How does God speak to us?**



Bible Study: List as many ways you can think of how God spoke in the Bible and today.

Read Acts 10.1-22 List all the ways God spoke to these men?
What else can you learn from this story about God speaking to us?

Ways God Speaks in the Bible:

#1 The Scriptures – this is by far the first, primary, and safest hearing of God for our lives

#2 Impulses and urges – Mk. 1.12 says that Jesus was impelled by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness. This word impelled in the Greek means to be thrust out or sent by urging or a strong impulse.

#3 Our Conscience - 1 Tim. 1.5 7 1.19 speak of keeping a good conscience. The conscience guiding us as a guardian and voice of God is spoken about 28 times in the NT. Of course our conscience must be renewed by the Spirit & the word.

#4 The Still Small Voice of the Holy Spirit – In Acts 10.19, we find that the Holy Spirit speaks directly to Peter with His voice. He so often is the voice of the Lord to us. He speaks into our spirits and it comes up into our souls where we discern what is said.

#5 Your Natural Thought Processes – Sometimes the Holy Spirit's voice does not come as a different voice into your thoughts but it comes as a part of your thoughts themselves.

#6 Other People – God so often delivers His messages to us through other people. The key is to be open, listening and aware in our spirits and minds that He might be talking. There are several ways He speaks through others:

- a. Prophecy
- b. A message being spoken about the Lord
- c. A passing conversation that we hear



#7 Visions, Dreams, Pictures – God can speak to us prophetically through all of these means. Some people go into a trance others just have the occurrences as they are awake and aware.

#8 Angelic Visitations – In the book of Acts, the Lord speaks as many recorded times through angels as He does by the Spirit. We should ask Him and begin to seek these angelic visitors to come to us and visit us.

#9 Animals, Nature, Objects – In the Scriptures it talks of nature constantly declaring the glory of God. He uses a donkey to speak to Balaam, and objects to bring messages to others. Why is it that we don't hear Him in these things? Could it be our spirits are not awake and listening?

#10 Hardship, Pain, Suffering, & Conflict – One of the great ways God speaks to His people is through allowing or at times sending great pain and difficulty into our lives. It could be the pain of relational problems, or a loss of a loved one, or some other crisis. God IS speaking through it. In 2 Cor 12.7-10, Paul speaks of a very difficult 'messenger of Satan' sent to him but in the midst of this difficult attack, there is an amazing message and revelation from God. Later in Heb 12.5-10, it speaks of all sorts of difficulties coming into our lives to be a message from God to help bring us into His wonderful holiness. The key is not attacking, getting bitter, or blaming others, but to come to God with a sincere heart and saying, "*What is your message in all of this, Father?*"

#11 The Peace of God in Your Heart – In Col. 3.15 it speaks of His peace acting as the ruler of our hearts, directing us in the way we should go.
AM or FM

The AM frequency of radio is very imprecise and very hard to tune it to the channels clearly. That is how most of our lives are today in hearing His voice.

We must learn to change frequencies into a spiritual FM mode where the communication from God is much clearer and tuning is easier.



Reflection: All of us are very different and God has made us that way. What are the primary ways God speaks to you? That is your key. Look back over the list and write in how He most often speaks to you.

God speaks in many ways even on a single situation sometimes. The key for us is learning to tune in to His voice above all others.



So How Do You Know It's God and Not Another Voice

As you are seeking to learn to tune in, there are some clear guides to help us develop our hearing so that we know that it is God and not one of the other voices, especially our own soulish voice.

A. Scriptures – The first guide is always the Scriptures themselves. God will never contradict His Word with a voice from heaven. It is crucial to daily renew our minds and meet with Him in the Word so that He can renew and fill our mind with the most sure Voice from heaven there is.

B. The Nature of the Voice – James 3.17 describe the nature of God's voice

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Pure = Does the voice come in the same everytime? Does it change its tone?

Jesus voice is calm, collected, not driving or urgent, authoritative, full of love. The other voices drive you, hurry you, push you, vascillate

Gentle = Jesus' voice is gentle, kind, full of love, desiring your very best every time although it is authoritative and commanding. The Other voices are often harsh, hard, demanding, and take away all peace and hope.

Peace = Is the voice full of peace? Does it bring peace to me?

Full of Mercy = Is this voice and command full of mercy? Jesus loves mercy!

Unwavering = The same all the time. Some of the voices we hear seem to change their minds all the time, but God does not. He and His voice are consistent and the same.

Full of Good Fruits = Jesus said that we could judge a tree by its fruit and as we listen to the Lord or other voices, we can judge them by their fruit. What voice bring forth the fruit of Jesus' will and nature? What voice brings me into intimacy and love? What voice brings me into a passion for His work and His anointing?

C. Trusted People – One other great guide in learning to discern the voice of the Lord is to surround ourselves with mature men and women. Always bring what you are hearing if it is major before them and let them help you discern what is of God and what could be of another source. Occasionally, they might even not see it and you have to utterly rely upon the Lord.

Developing Hearing Ears

So how do you develop a lifestyle of moving from occasionally **hearing** His voice to hearing Him often and coming to **Knowing** His voice?



1. **Value Hearing Him** – In Matt 17, the Father said, “*Listen to Him, Hear Him!*” We had better take God’s word to the first 12 ministers in the Kingdom seriously. We must make great room in our hearts and lives to hear Him.

2. **Spend Consistent Time In His Presence** – There is nowhere like His presence. As we spend uninterrupted time in His presence, we will become more and more sensitive to His voice. Some important things to learn in His presence:

- How to “Shut the door” (Matt 6) to the outer world and noise
- How to “center down” into our spirit man where He dwells
- How to wait, listen, and just be with Him in open, expectation

3. **Spend Time Feeding Upon Him in the Word** – As we fill our hearts more and more with His Word, we give Him opportunity to speak as we read and ponder, but we also give Him a full heart and mind to draw from when He chooses to speak to us later. Some helps in the Word:

- Learn to quiet your soul and listen inwardly as you read outwardly
- Where is His presence resting as you read?
- Learn to hear Him and meet with Him, not just read passages or verses
- Pray continually as you read and ponder and listen

4. **Learn to Listen in your heart and spirit to Him all through the day** – He truly lives within you and often is speaking throughout the day, but we are so busy outwardly that we never hear. We must learn to stay inwardly connected, listening, waiting, as we work and live in the outer man. He will speak to us often many times through a day from the smallest thing to the greatest. Paul called this *the fellowship of the Spirit* in 2 Cor 13.14.

5. **Obey always what you hear** – After you know God has spoken, obey Him fully. Disobedience shuts off His voice from speaking again to us often. If you are having trouble hearing Him now, is there disobedience that needs to be obeyed or repented of.



Part #5: Prophecy



Discussion: How is prophecy currently working in your life?

The Bible's Exhortation to Prophecy

- The Apostle Paul admonishes us to desire prophecy when he says, "Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual {gifts,} but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Corinthians 14:1-
 - The definition of "desire:" to be on fire to get ahold of – covet, be jealous for and toward, envy for. God through Paul tells us to be on fire to obtain and use these powerful gifts of the Holy Spirit, but especially gifts of prophecy.
 - Most Christians do not seem to understand how prophecy can be used today. Many fear it. It is Mysterious to most. It is often neglected in practice. Many believe that those who prophesy are insincere. And because of this they have become **Unbiblical Christians** – *They don't prophesy and they are not passionately desiring to for the good of others.*
-



Bible Study: 1 Cor 14.1; 2 Tim 1.6; 1 Cor 14.5; 1 Cor 12.1; 1 Tim 4.14; 1 Thes. 5.20

Some Truths About Prophecy

Do you desire prophecy in your life or are you a little bit afraid of prophecy? If we are to follow Paul's instructions, we must understand the gift of prophecy.

Definition of Prophecy: A hearing, seeing, or somehow knowing what God is presently saying or doing and expressing that to others by some means.

- Speaking for the mind and heart of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit
- Not everything you hear should be spoken. Most probably prayed

How Long has God been Using this Gift: "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:21

- What: God has spoken
- How: By the mouth of the Holy Prophets
- When: Since the world began

Prophecy is in both the OT and NT: Prophecy is the only one of FIVE FOLD gifts of Eph. 4 that transcends all eras! Why? Hearing God directly is perhaps the



greatest key to true spiritual life, escaping the spirit of religious tradition, and pleasing God.

The History of Prophecy in Scripture

The early Fathers were all called Prophets:

Enoch (Jude 14,15)

Noah (Heb. 11.7)

Abraham (Gen. 20.7, Ps. 105.9-15)

Joseph (Prophetic dreamer)

Moses (Dt. 34.10)

Miriam (Ex. 15.20)

Deborah (Jd. 4.4)

Conclusion: We don't consider any of these prophets, but the Father calls them all prophets! All of His men and women were prophetic in the OT.

Examples of NT. Prophets:

Agabus + Team (Acts 11.27)

Phillip's Daughters (Acts 21.9)

Judas/Silas (Acts 15.32)

Antioch Church (Acts 13.1)

The Promise of the Spirit & Prophecy

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. Acts 2:16-18

When the Spirit comes, four different times He says He will make us a prophetic people. This is the dominant work of the Holy Spirit in our lives – causing us to come alive to God and giving us a prophetic nature. Every person, born again, filled with the Holy Spirit should be a prophetic person.



Discussion: What are some ways that God tends to talk to you?
Have you ever received a prophetic word from another person?

The Purposes & Functions of Prophecy

1. To Equip the saints for ministry & mature the body of Christ – Eph. 4.11-12
The first purpose of prophecy is to help mature the people of God and equip them for service. As we receive true and living words, they work within us bringing us to strength, stability, and solidness in Christ. We mature, and grow into the person God wants us to be. A prophetic ministry should also equip us. It should equip us and develop and release within us the prophetic nature and gifts that God desires us to live and minister in.



2. Edification, Exhortation, & Comfort – 1 Cor 14.3

- Edification = to build a house, to build up, to erect, to strengthen
- Exhortation = to urge or spur on, to encourage into action
- Comfort = to bring peace, healing, mercy, etc.. to a wounded part of a heart or soul.

KEY: Almost all prophecy within the church should stay at this level. When you think receive a word, ask: "Will it do one or more of these three things? If it does, even if it is not God's voice, it will still minister Christ's love and encouragement. If not, submit to your leaders before speaking the prophetic word.

3. **Corrective Prophecy** - Prophecy to bring correction, rebuke, or specific change to someone or a group. A word that speaks to a wrong area of life or a ministry.

4. **Directive Prophecy** - Prophetic words that give clear direction as to a new course of action that you must take or that show clear direction from God to the future.

Directive prophecy is usually reserved for people who are well recognized as trustworthy in the prophetic. Usually those recognized as a prophet are given the privilege of giving directive prophecies. It is very easy to get into trouble when trying to give directive prophecy on the following subjects: (Marriage, jobs, money, a move).

KEY: Do not give these last two kinds of words unless you first submit it to and through the leadership of your church. These are always to be weighed and judged first. They are only for seasoned and mature prophetic voices.

5. **Prophecy is a Weapon of War in the Fight of Faith** – In the fight of faith with the devil, one of his chief aims is to cause us to move out of the place of faith and to give up on the promises of God. Prophecy is a powerful weapon in this fight both personally and corporately.

"This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight" 1 Tim 1:18

"So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." 2 Chr 20:20

6. **In Prayer** – All through the scriptures, like the one above, we see God meeting people prophetically in the place of prayer. To just pray what I think and what I see about a situation is not enough, God wants to speak to us, so that we may join Jesus Christ, the Great Intercessor, in what He is praying about people, places, and events. When we begin to pray prophetically, things begin to happen.



Application: Prophetic Prayer: With a partner you don't know well, begin to look at them and pray for them. As you pray, begin to pray about things beyond your realm of knowledge. Pray until the flow stops. Ask them about the prayer.



Part #6 – Different Kinds of Prophecy

Five Words of the Old Testament Describing Prophetic Giftings

These words speak of how different people receive from the Lord. They also tell of different things and functions God may use prophetic ministry for.

- **NABI** = means to bubble up – the words of the Lord seem to bubble up out of the inner part of this gift. It simply comes up within you out of your heart, into your mind.
- **ROEH** = means to see - A Seer – not one who hears the prophetic words as much as one who sees things. Pictures, visions, illustrations, etc. With a seer, you often need interpretation of what is seen. This is a whole different way one might receive messages from the Lord.
- **HAZON** = means WATCHMAN – this gift is probably that of a prophetic intercessor. One who is before the Lord, sees and hears, and then prays powerful prophetic prayers to be a watchman of the flock.
- **PROPHETES** = One who speaks for God
 - Foretell – to tell things in the future, directive, upcoming events or workings of God with men.
 - Forthtell – To give the wisdom, counsel, and understanding of God into a life or situation or group
- **NATAPH** = means to preach, to drop from heaven

The Difference Between OT & NT Prophets

Old Testament

Loner
Isolated from community
Mysterious, feared, respected
Often proclaimed judgment

New Testament

Team oriented - Work with apostles
Lives within local community
Seemed very normal people
More directive and encouraging

Four Levels of Prophetic Ministry

It is important for us to learn how prophecy exists on different levels and how one grows into consistent prophetic ministry. Everyone tends to begin with a general hearing of God's voice, but over the years, the prophetic flow and gifts deepen. Here is a generalization of growing deeper into the prophetic.

#1 The Spirit of Prophecy: A revelational life in God; revelation in the word & prayer; a general sense of hearing from God and seeing what he's doing.

- Can be for yourself, your family or for others
- **Rev 19:10** "... *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*"
- This should be operating in all children of God. We should be living in relationship with Jesus and hearing His voice, His testimony.



#2 The Gift of Prophecy: Getting a specific message for someone and relaying it to them.

- This happens occasionally to you.
- Stick to Edification, exhortation, & comfort. Stay away from corrective prophecy and directive. Just pray in these cases.
- Peter in Acts 2 & Paul in 1 Cor. 14 are clear that all Christians can and should and should desire to prophesy.

#3 The Ministry of Prophecy: God begins to use you very often in prophetic ministry to others.

- You are developing a clear giftedness and consistency here.
- You find that this is one of the dominant ways that God uses you.
- Your Prophetic ministry blesses, builds, and bears fruit in others

#4 The Office of a Prophet: Years of consistent, accurate prophetic ministry where not just you, but many others, especially the leaders around you recognize that this is your office in the work of God

- You have a long, proven track record
- This has probably been a clear 15-20 year journey in God

Swimming Pool Illustration: It is like when you move out into a swimming pool. The water isn't deep all of a sudden. As you walk further and further into the pool, the water gets deeper until finally you are in over your head.

Two Kinds of Prophets Today

Blessing Prophets – those who come in or exist within a body to bless others with edification, direction, comfort. Often primarily work on the level of individuals. Most prophets today work in this realm because the church hasn't known how to build with prophecy. They usually travel or minister alone and unfortunately their ministry is not overly biblical in the office of prophet.

Building Prophets – those who help direct the affairs of churches, movements, cities, states, nations by seeing what God is doing and saying and giving those words to build large groups and movements. There are not many of these unfortunately because we have not seen the need for them or known how to develop and use them. They move with and work with apostles and pastors to build the local church and the movement of God. They see the big picture and help determine strategy and steps to move toward it.



Application: Basic Step of Faith Prophecy: Have each person pair up with someone you don't know and then have them begin to pray in their own language and in Tongues. At some point they need to begin to just speak forth what God is putting in their minds. They might begin with a bit of common knowledge, but then they must go forth into areas of the unknown. As they finish,



have them ask if anything said was correct or moving in a prophetic direction. Have the second person do the same.

Part #7 – Receiving and Giving Prophecy

We Receive Prophecy From God for Someone In Several Ways

- 1) A Prophetic Word for someone
 - Comes as a clear stream of words to your mind and heart
 - Comes as a knowing of something, not a big stream of words- an inner knowing
- 2) Revelations through the Bible
 - Rhema word for self or others from the Scriptures
- 3) Word of Knowledge & Word of Wisdom
 - Word of Knowledge – knowing a clear thing about a person's past or now that there is no way you could know (ex. Jesus & woman at the well)
 - Word of Wisdom – a divinely inspired answer to a life problem or situation. Far beyond normal understanding
 - These two types of prophetic ministry are critical for counseling and ministry with individuals in inner healing and deliverance
- 4) Dreams
 - God loves to speak to our lives and guide us through dreams
 - Almost all prophetic dreams must have interpretation
 - There is a whole other prophetic ministry called the interpretation of visions and dreams
 - Examples: Pharoah's dream & Joseph
 - How do you know when it is a prophetic dream? Details stand out, in color, very out of the ordinary, remember it vividly.
- 5) Visions
 - Inner Visions: Those pictures you see that happen on the page of the mind. God speaks to many people this way.
 - Open Visions: Pictures displayed to a person that they are actually seeing with their physical eyes
 - Visions like dreams, need interpretation and clarification
- 6) Physical Sensations
 - John Wimber – Parts of his body would start hurting while ministering in a meeting and he came to learn that the Lord was directing him to healing spots of people within the audience.
- 7) Tongues & Interpretation
 - Very like prophecy when it happens but we don't see it real often for some reasons
 - A powerful tool for spiritual warfare



Bible Study: The Importance of Tongues: Of the nine manifestation gifts found in 1 Cor. 12.7-11, tongues is the one that is primarily a gift to minister to and build up the personal life of the believer. All of the other gifts are given almost entirely to minister to and build others up.

Read 1 Cor. 14.1-5 and list all the things you can learn about the purpose and primary use of the gift of tongues.

Some Truths about tongues:

- I speak to God and I don't understand it. (v2)
- I speak mysteries to God in my spirit (v2)
- I edify myself when I speak in a tongue (v4)
- Paul wants everyone to (v5)
- When you speak in a tongue pray for the interpretation (v13)
- When you pray in a tongue, your spirit prays, but your mind is unfruitful (v14)
- We should pray in the spirit and our natural language and we should worship in the spirit and our natural language.
- The Key: tongues takes you out of the realm of the logical and moves you into the realm of the spirit and it unlocks the Holy Spirit to us so that we may move in the other gifts.

8) The Prophetic Song

KEY COMMENTS: Don't put God in a box. Find your dominant way, when, and how God wants to use you and learn to flow in it. Don't compare the way he uses you with the way he uses others. You may miss finding your prophetic way and style if you are always looking at others.

Giving a Personal Word of Prophecy

- 1) Do not be mystical or hyper spiritual.
- 2) Learn when to speak, when to hold it, and when just to pray it!
 - Many things God shows you are for prayer alone.
 - If the prophecy is corrective by nature, guard your own heart from judgment.
 - Ask the Lord:
 - Do I need to say this?
 - Do I need to say this now?
 - Do I need to say this publicly or privately?
- 3) Don't say 'Thus saith the Lord. . .' - Just say "I think the Lord may be saying" or "I feel the Lord might be saying. . ."
 - This takes the pressure off you & them.
 - Keep it short!



Discussion: What can happen when a prophetic word is delivered in the wrong spirit. Have you ever seen a prophetic word delivered improperly? Give the message in normal language & with your normal voice.

4) Give the Word in the right Spirit -

- This is so crucial. Many people give a word under the following spirits:
- Control & manipulation
- Anger or judgment or bitterness of resentment
- I'm right and your wrong
- You better listen to God's prophet or else!
- The motive of every word of God should be to display the love, compassion, and desire of God for people to be close to Him.
- Even hard, corrective words must come in this spirit.

5) Never give words "privately". Always have another there to judge.

- Often "prophetic" people like to work behind the scenes giving all of these words to people without having to be accountable for what they are saying.
- We should always minister in openness and honesty before the leadership of the church.
- When you think you have a word, get another person, especially a leader to hear as you give it.
- Pastor's protect the flock from the "Private Prophets."

6) Giving a Word to Children

- When you give a word to a child:
- Get down on his level eye to eye
- Talk very simply, gently, and plainly
- Tell them God is wanting to say something to them through you
- Don't ever manipulate a child through prophecy
- Have their parents or a leader there when the word is spoken

7) Look for the Prophetic Key that will break open a person's life!

- Believe God for the most powerful word that speaks the most directly to a person's life or situation.
- Believe God to touch the deepest part of their being through you.

8) A Good Rule: Hear It - Pray It - Say It - Pray It Again - Leave It Alone

9) Finally, once you have delivered the word, leave it alone.

- Many people try to force action on their prophecy after they have delivered it. That's not your job. Once you have delivered the prophetic word, your job is done.
-



Application: Get in groups of 5-6. Place one person in a chair and begin to pray over that person. As someone begins to get a few thoughts begin to prophesy. As the first person stops, another person can begin. Go on for 2-5 minutes and then discuss the session. Do it again several times.



Part #8 - Receiving A Prophetic Word From Someone Else

Understand that not every prophetic word is from God – we are humans.

1) Examine the Word - 1Thes 5:20-21 “ . . .**do not despise prophetic utterances. 21 But examine everything {carefully} hold fast to that which is good;**

- Do not despise prophecy – we can't be scared. It is crucial to our lives.
- Examine what is said carefully.
- Hold on to what is good and drop the rest. – Some of the prophecy may be very God given and another part may seem like it is a mistake. This happens sometimes. Don't throw it all out because one part was a mistake.

2) How to examine it:

- Was it scriptural? (2 tim 3.16-17)
- Did it edify, exhort, or comfort me? (1 Cor 14.3)
- What was the spirit the word came in? Is it consistent with the nature of Christ? (Rom 8.16)
- Did the message confirm what the Lord is already speaking to me?
- How does the word register with those closest to me and over me in the Lord?
- Is all of this or just a part of this from the Lord?
- How would this affect my current life, family, job, and commitments?
- Does this need interpretation?
- Do I need to apply something now and take action?
- Does it bring life?
- Does it glorify Jesus?

Once you have received a word, you have entered a prophetic process in your life. You must do something with the Word of God you have received.

Three Steps in the Prophetic Process

In the process of seeing prophecy fulfilled in your life or church, there are three steps to seeing the Word of the Lord come true. Prophecy does not give us the inevitable, it gives us the potential. Prophecy is God speaking forth His will and His plan for a situation. What we do with it and how we respond to God and live determines if it comes to pass. God WILL do His part if we obey Him, trust Him, and do ours.

The Revelation: The Actual message, vision, dream etc. given. Often this is not clear. It needs unraveling to get clear guidance and help in life. Discerning the prophecy is as important as delivering the prophecy.



The Interpretation: Almost always a prophetic word needs interpretation. Things like: • What does this actually mean for my life or church? • What is God really trying to say to me? • What is the timing of this thing?

The Application: This is critical. KEY: Prophecy does not tell you the inevitable, it tells you the potential. How you respond and what you become will determine if it comes to pass.

- ***Ps 105:19*** *Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.*
- God's word will test, try, purify you until you either give up or become the person that can live it out. The bigger the word, the greater the testing of God. Many people never step into their prophetic destiny
- What should be done now?
- What is the timing?
- What must I do to see this word fulfilled in my life?
- What kind of preparation & training? What changes need to be made?
- KEY: You must pray that prophetic word and war for it to come.

Examples of this prophetic process:

Good: Joseph & Pharaoh

Bad: Proph. Over Paul at the end of his life.

Other Keys to seeing Prophecy fulfilled:

- Be accountable and let your authorities work with you
- Look for confirmation along the way
- Timing is critical – it is better to go slow than too fast
- Always hold up your word and your course of action to Scripture
- Pray it into existence – (Elijah & the coming of rain)



Discussion: Get in a group of 3. Share stories on what you have done with prophecy in your life in the past. Have you followed these types of guidelines? Share times when you did not. What was the results in your life? What would happen if we each would



Part #9 Handling Corporate Prophecy

Guidelines for Pastor's handling prophecy.

- Don't despise prophecy. It is probably one the most important gifts of the Lord to build your church and your people. (1 Thess 5.20)
- Don't allow anything to go within your congregation. There must be training and order within. Things can get pretty flaky if the proper guidance is not given.
- Create a prophetic friendly environment.
- Align yourself and your church with mature prophetic voice or voices to aid in building your work



Reflection: How have you seen pastors handle prophecy in their church? What was good and what was not too good?

Prophetic Protocol in the Church and Services

The word protocol means: the guidelines of how things should occur. These are the Rules of the Game in the church as far as prophecy goes. Some key questions you must answer: ***Should words be given openly from the floor during a service or first be judged by leadership? Should we have a prophetic free-for-all or should all words pass through trained leaders?***

- Even as we set the rules for how prophecy works in our church, we don't want to create a hyper-controlled environment
- What types of words should be given in a service? Most that come to us should never be given. They are very general exhortations that are either the emotion of the person in their worship experience at the moment or a word of edification to them personally.
- Should corrective words be given before the congregation?
- Should directive words be given before the congregation?
- How many words should be given when prophecy begins to flow?
- What should you do when words are given?
- Who should prophesy in the main services?
- The importance of cell groups in developing those giftings.

We should develop prophetic guidelines for every area of church life:

- 1) Corporate services
- 2) Home Groups



- 3) Personal prophecies
- 4) Prayer meetings
- 5) Bringing Corrective or Directive words to the leadership

Scriptural Guidelines for handling Prophecy



Bible Study: Read the following Scriptures and describe the guidelines given for handling prophecy.

1 Cor. 14.26-33 1 Thess 5.20-21

Some things we glean from these verses:

- The setting for these words = a house church
- The directions: 2-3 at most and then pass judgment
- What would this look like in a cell group?
- What would this look like in a congregational meeting?
- 2 – 3 people give words - If the nature of the words are for immediate ministry, the leader should give a clear “judgment” of what God is saying and then 15-20 minutes of teaching from the word should flow in this vein and then perhaps altar ministry to release the Power in this very topic.
- The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets – You don’t have to say anything.
- The leader should move the meeting in this biblical precedent.

Other Guidelines: - Never go to another congregation and stand up and prophesy.



Part #10 - Developing a Prophetic Lifestyle

Basic life character

1. Integrity in basic life
2. Kindness, love
3. Not Spooky

You Live Under Authority

- Must be under authority
- Every new situation, find it and submit to it
- Submit the words you give and release them

You Must Be Grounded in the Scriptures

- A great deal of prophecy should come from here
- Brings balance, strength and life
- Flakiness in people today

Be a Risk Taker: Go and live beyond your comfort zone – The bible says in Romans 12.6 that we prophesy according to our faith. All faith must take a step and often that is a risky step.

Be a clean prophetic Vessel

- Our lives, emotions, and backgrounds are the filters the word must go through.
- Insecurity, Bitterness, Rejection, Pride, Control, selfish ambition are dangerous filters for a direct word from God to come through
- We cannot be a defiled prophetic voice. There are many of these out there. We can be defiled by: a lack of holiness, wrong motives, greed, or a desire for personal gain, recognition or power!

Intimacy with Jesus is the highest key to the prophetic.

John 15:14-15 "You are My friends, if you do what I command you. 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door {standing} open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like {the sound} of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."



Prophetic Activations

Prophetic Activation: *Prophetic Prayer* = With a partner you don't know well, begin to look at them and pray for them. As you pray, begin to pray about things beyond your realm of knowledge. Pray until the flow stops. Ask them about the prayer.

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION: *Basic Step of Faith Prophecy* = Have each person pair up with someone you don't know and then have them begin to pray in English & Tongues. At some point they need to begin to just speak forth anything that begins to come. They might begin with a bit of common knowledge, but then they must go forth into areas of the unknown. As they finish, have them ask if anything said was correct or moving in a prophetic direction. Have the second person do the same.

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION: *The Prophetic Presbytery* = Get in groups of 5-6. Place one person in a chair and begin to pray over that person. As someone begins to get a few thoughts begin to prophesy. As the first person stops, another person can begin. Go on for 2-5 minutes and then discuss the session. Do it again several times.

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION: *Prophetic Circle* = In groups of 5-6 have one in a chair and then make a circle around with the most experienced person directly in front. Say 'go' and begin to speak, when 'stop' is given, the group rotates and the next person begins on the same sentence the last person stopped. Do this once or twice around and only allow people to speak for brief times.

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION: *Face the Wall* = Split the class into two different groups. Have group one face a wall and have someone from group 2 stand behind them and simply tap them on the shoulder without seeing them or knowing if it is a man or woman. When you say go, people in group one should begin to prophesy over the person behind them with no knowledge whatsoever. Let it go on for about five minutes, move the group back to the middle and repeat the exercise with group 2 against the wall.

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION: *Prophetic Writing* = With music playing in a background, have everyone write on a piece of paper the words: *My son, I say to you or My daughter, I say to you.* . . and then when you say go, begin writing as fast as you can go without concentrating or forcing thought. It's amazing what will come forth.