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Welcome to the:

PROPHETIC TRAINING



LESSON ONE

FOUNDATIONS OF THE PROPHETIC

What is Prophecy?

The Hebrew word “to prophesy” means “to flow forth”. It further implies the meaning as to bubble forth like a fountain or to spring forth. The Greek word or the New Testament meaning of “to prophesy” literally means to “speak for another”. Prophecy is supernatural revelation or the voice of God in any given situation which bring forth edification, exhortation and comfort.

The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy **(Revelation 19:10)**

All true prophecy is the testimony of Jesus, it comes from Him and it draws people to Him.

The purpose of the gift of prophecy in the New Testament church is described in **(1 Cor 14:3)**
But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.

Edification means, “to build up”

Exhortation means, “to call near”

Consolation means, “to cheer up”

In the New Testament Church we as prophetic people are not called to bring negative words, correction or call fire down upon people. We are prophets of grace, not prophets of judgment. We do not prophesy peoples’ problems, we prophesy the answers. We are called to bring forth the best in people.

Prophecy is a Gift

Prophecy is a gift, not a reward. The Bible tells us to earnestly desire the gifts but there is nothing we can do to earn the gift of prophecy. Neither is the gift of prophecy a mark of spiritual maturity, you do not have to wait to earn them. We do not earn the gift of prophecy, we received it by asking. Gift or Charisma means, a favor in which one receives without any merit on his own, a gift of divine grace. God is a good Father, who loves to give good gifts to his children!

Imagine a child coming down for Christmas seeing many presents wrapped and laid under the tree waiting to be opened! A good father lives for those moments as he sees his children unwrapped the presents. So our Heavenly Father loves to see us un-wrap the gifts of the Spirit.

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! **(Matt 7:11)***

For years the gifts of the Spirit have been taught that we need to find our one special gift. This results in the assumption that if we are not operating in a gift presently then we must not have that gift. This incorrect doctrine was based from the following verses, especially v.11. *“distributing to each one individually just as He wills”.*

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. **(1 Cor 12:4-11)***

Many Christians, especially operating in the 5-fold offices carry a strong anointing in certain gifts. Just because someone has a strong anointing in a certain gift that does not stop us from operating in the other 8 gifts. The gifts of the Spirit, all 9 of them are distributed to us as we need them. Every believer has the potential to operate in every gift.

Since all gifts are available to us, we “learn” to walk in them. We have spent our lives operating in the natural world. We must learn to operate in the gifts of the Spirit and the gift of prophecy just as we learned to walk and talk as children.

Prophecy’s Vital Role in the Scripture

From Genesis to Revelation God was always speaking to mankind. God speaks to mankind through dreams, visions, angels and through prophets. Kings were anointed and humbled. The life of Jesus was foretold in many scriptures in the OT, from his birth to his death and resurrection each being fulfilled. Jesus was completely dependent upon the hearing the voice of God (only speaking what he heard the father saying).

After Jesus was glorified he breathed His Spirit into the people during the day of Pentecost and he created the Body of Christ, The Church. This was a fulfillment of Joel 2:28, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh... Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the promise of Joel has an

expiration date.

God is Always Speaking

Jesus is called “The Word” in John, he lives within us and he is always speaking.

Many, O Lord my God are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us; There is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count. (Ps 40:5)

Every believer is prophetic to a degree. A believer is prophetic simply by knowing Jesus. Every person I have ever trained in the prophetic has said that they had been hearing the voice of God, but didn't recognize it.

Prophetic training allows us to tune our spiritual ears to hear what the Lord is saying. Jesus said, “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*” **(Luke 8:8)**. This implies two things, first that Jesus is speaking and second some do not have their spiritual ears tuned into what he is saying.

God is always speaking but his word is hidden. God's word is hidden from the proud and is made available to ones who are humble and hungry for his word, those with a child-like faith.

...At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. (Luke 10:21-22)

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Prov 25:2)

As the Body of Christ, we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood made to be prophetic; *to you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (Matt 13:11)*

God is always speaking, but His language is not English. We must learn to tune our ears to hear by the Spirit.

All Believers Can Prophesy

When Paul said “we may all prophesy”, that includes everyone! As we draw nearer to Jesus in faith we will find there is an ease with which the believer can hear the voice of God.

Prophetic, revelatory experiences are for everybody.

For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted
(1 Cor 14:31)

The Apostle Paul said that we should earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophesy. In other words we should place a high value on the gift of prophesy, the ability to rightly hear the voice of God.

Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.
(1 Cor 14:1-2)

Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.
(1 Cor 14:39-40)

According to the prophet Joel we are a prophetic generation that will hear God's voice. This is God's dream, in the book of Acts Peter said, "This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel"

It will come about after this, That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)

The Key to a Successful Prophetic Ministry – The Secret Place

The greatest and most important key to Prophetic Ministry is a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. As we seek his face we hear his voice. Whoever belongs to Jesus communicates with Him. Knowing Him is our greatest call. It is possible to operate in the gift of prophecy as stated in Matthew:

Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; (Matt 7:22-23)

You and I never want to be in that group. How terrible that would be to work for Him, prophesy in His name, but never really know him. I believe this is a major reason why the prophetic ministry has been abused and has brought upon the prophetic much controversy.

Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people." And He said, "My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest." Then he said to Him, "If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here. "For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with

us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?" (Ex 33:13-16)

Our foremost cry should be as Moses cried, "let me know Your ways that I may know you". *The Lord will entrust himself to the prophets to the extent that he will do "nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7)*. The Lord will share His secrets to His friends simply because he wants to.

As we behold the glory of the Lord in the secret place, we become like Him, we become intimate with Him. This is when we begin to know his ways and become like Him. I call this the principal of "Beholding and Becoming". As we gaze upon Him, we become like Him.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (2 Cor 3:17-18)

My Sheep Hear my Voice

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; (John 10:27-28)

When Samuel came to Jesse's house to anoint a king, David was out tending the sheep. The sheep would spend a lot of time with their shepherd until they would learn to recognize the voice of their shepherd above any other voice. Jesus uses this example to show us how the in the secret place, there we will learn to recognize his voice above all others, above the voice of our own desires of our soul and the voice of the enemy.

An anointed man or woman of God can lay hands on you and impart a grace for the gift of prophecy. But it is impossible for that person to impart unto you their relationship or their history with God. It is the requirement of every believer to develop their own relationship and history with God. That is done in the secret place where no one is watching.

Placing Value on the Prophetic

Our growth and maturity in the prophetic will be a result of how much we earnestly desire and contend for this gift. The words "earnestly desire" mean to "lust after". God wants to place an extremely high value and make room for the prophetic in our lives.

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. (John 6:63-64)

Man shall not live by bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
(Matt 4:4)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. **(Rom 10:17)**

Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart. **(Ps 37:4)**

...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **(Matt 6:21)**

Prophetic Community

A prophetic community happens when a group of people come together in unity with a desire to hear the voice of God. This creates a high level prophetic anointing in a geographic location. An "umbrella of anointing" in the atmosphere is created causing even non-prophetic people to prophesy. This happened to Saul when he encountered the company of prophets;

When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them. It came about, when all who knew him previously saw that he prophesied now with the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"
(1 Sam 10:10-12)

A Prophetic Community cultivates a prophetic lifestyle.

A Prophetic Community allows people to walk in their full potential of their prophetic calling. People are not judged by their limitations, but are seen for their potential.

Iron sharpens iron; we grow faster in the prophetic as we grow together.

A group of people with relationship and accountability to each other and to leadership

Developing a Culture of Risk within a Prophetic Community:

- Misses and mistakes are learning experiences and not shameful. We may fail a lot. It is better to swing and miss than not swing at all.
- There is no punishment for mistakes. We learn to fail successfully.
- Our goal is to be 100% accurate in prophetic ministry, yet realizing we are not yet there.
- We learn to be deeply accountable to each other in this lifestyle of risk. When people succeed we applaud them, when they fail, we pick them up
- A culture of risk will break a cycle of fear
- Prophetic Words are allowed to be tested in love, without causing offense

Prophetic Activation

Pair up with someone you do not know very well.

1. Ask the Lord for one word for that person. Write down the first word that comes to your mind.
2. Ask the Lord to show you a picture in your mind that relates to that person. Write down the description of the first image you see.

Homework

Prophecy Your Day: Start your day by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal events of that day to you. Quiet yourself, clear your mind and ask Him to show you in a vision, word or impression what will happen that day. Write your thoughts or vision down and at the end of your day check your list.