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Welcome to the:

PROPHETIC TRAINING



LESSON SEVEN

GROWING IN THE PROPHETIC

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2:52)

A question that is frequently asked is, “How does one grow in prophetic ministry?” It is not wrong to ask for spiritual gifts as the Word tells us to eagerly desire them. The key is to “*grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ*” (Eph 4:15). Prophecy and Words of Knowledge will flow naturally as we come to intimately know Jesus, who is the “Word”.

3 Types of Prophetic Anointing

Operating in the Spirit of Prophecy – The Spirit of Prophecy is often a beginner’s stage in the prophetic. Mark Virkler defines it as, “Not being able to personally capture the prophetic flow unless you have been led into it by another.” A Spirit of Prophecy is often a corporate anointing of the Holy Spirit which enables men and woman who do not operate in the Gift of Prophecy or the Office of the Prophet to speak forth under the inspiration of God. Such anointing is usually released in meetings where there is a powerful presence of the Lord and almost anyone could pick up on the mind of the Lord and prophesy. People find it easier to receive visions, prophesy of edification, exhortation and comfort, which always lead people to Jesus. This is the testimony of Jesus.

*And he said to me, "These are true words of God." Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy.**" (Rev 19:9-10)*

Operating in the Gift of Prophecy – The Gift of Prophecy – The Gift of Prophecy is when a person has personally developed to be able to flow in the prophetic even when the Spirit of Prophecy is not present. This person has learned how to stand still before God, even in a group of people and “stir up the gift” that is within them. Growing in the operation of the Gift of Prophecy is available to all

who seek it. Second Timothy 1:6 indicates this gift can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

*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. (1 Cor 12:7-10)*

Operating in the Office of the Prophet – The Office of the Prophet is basically developed when you are recognized by leaders in the Body of Christ as having a mature prophetic ministry. In Luke 2:32 Jesus grew “in favor” with God and men. Paul said in Romans 11:13 that he was “I am an apostle of Gentiles”, indicating that he was an apostle to the Gentiles because he was received as such, but not to the Jews. A person who operates in the Office of a Prophet will often operate in the prophetic realm of foretelling and confirmation of ministries within the Body of Christ. God sets people into this office.

The Office of the Prophet is designed to function in a higher realm of ministry than the Gift of Prophecy. The Office of the Prophets is part of the five-fold ministry gifts intended to build up, encourage, and comfort the Church, but also to give guidance, instruction and can bring correction.

*And He gave some as apostles, **and some as prophets**, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ (Eph 4:11-12)*

1. Knowing 2. Consecration 3. Appointed

*"Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you, And before you were born I **consecrated** you; I have **appointed** you a prophet to the nations." (Jer 1:5)*

1. Knowing God – God is always speaking, but we are not always listening. The mark of intimacy is hearing his voice. Hearing the voice of God is part of the joy of a relationship with Him. There are secrets that are reserved only for the friends of God who pursue Him in intimacy. Our purpose of our pursuit is not just hearing His voice but becoming a “friend of God”. As we begin to walk in this type of relationship we will see the Kingdom of God manifested. Make the presence of the Lord your treasure!

"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. "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. (John 15:15-16)

Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. (Ex 33:11)

The secret of the Lord(friendship of the Lord) is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant. (Ps 25:14)

...but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, (Rom 8:15-17)

2. Consecration – As we consecrate ourselves we allow ourselves to be drawn closer into the presence of God. We remove obstacles that prevent us from hearing his voice. Invite the Holy Spirit to convict you of any unconfessed sins. Guard your “eye gate” and “ear gate” from things that will defile and vex your soul. Be filled with the Word and with the Holy Spirit.

Position yourself to hear His voice by:

- a. Worship
- b. Mediation and Prayer
- c. Develop a continual fellowship with the Holy Spirit
- d. Listening

Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you. (Josh 3:5)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom 12:2)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Gal 5:22-24)

*Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the **true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins. (2 Peter 1:5-9)***

3. Appointed – From 2000 to 2010 Reinhard Bonnke's ministry about 60 million decision for Christ. One day Reinhard thanked God one day for choosing him to bring in the mighty harvest of souls. The Lord told Reinhard that he was not His first choice for this job. God has asked others before Reinhard but they would not respond to His call. God calls many to become His friends, to draw near and to hear His voice. Sadly few are willing die to themselves and say "YES".

God appoints those who say "YES"!!!

For many are called, but few are chosen. (Matt 22:14)

God is looking for people that will listen for His voice!

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chron 16:9)

To be a prophet is a *calling*. To minister in prophecy is a *gift*.

When a person ministers in the gift of prophecy, the *gift* is the *ability to prophesy*. The words themselves are the gift. When a person is a prophet, *they themselves are the gift*. The book of Ephesians says, "Christ gave gifts to men." The gifts that He gave are *other men*. A prophet is a gift to the church. – Kris Vallotton

Present Prophecy with Humility, Teachability and Patience

1. Humility – desire to not bring glory to yourself. We are part of a nameless, faceless generation that always directs glory to Jesus. Our goal is to be known in heaven, not upon the earth.

"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. So this joy of mine has been made full. "He must increase, but I must decrease. (John 3:29-30)

2. Teachability – we recognize that we "see in part" and need the rest of the Body of Christ. We are willing to receive instruction from others in administering revelation.

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.
[1 Cor 14:29]

3. Patience – We must be willing to be patient after we prophecy for the word to come to pass in God's timing.

BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. (Matt 18:16)

A Prophet's Reward

He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; (Matt 10:41)

Receiving a prophet is more than just listening to the word that is given. Receiving involves placing a value on the prophetic word and making room for that word in your life. The reward comes as we properly receive the prophetic word we receive the anointing to see that word manifest.

But what is the reward for the prophet giving the word? Evangelists often have instant reward, when they give an altar call to see sinners come forward to receive Jesus. A person giving a prophetic word may not always see that word come to pass. Our reward must not be in the fruits of the word that we give. Our reward must be based upon that we are the ones God speaks to, we are **Friends of God** who receive revelation. Our reward must always be His presence.

Practicing the Gift of Prophecy

*Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. **Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. (1 Tim 4:14-16)***

Many people misunderstand the definition of practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the Church in Acts Chapter 2, He released to us the same potential of anointing, power and gifting's the He walked in. We do not practice so that the Holy Spirit can improve His gifts, but rather we practice to improve our ability to flow with what the Holy Spirit is doing.

Paul is telling Timothy to minister in the spiritual gifts beyond his comfort zone. If we only minister where we feel comfortable at, we will never grow in those gifts. Classrooms and prophetic schools are great training grounds and great places to go out on a limb with a detailed prophetic word. But actually so is the world. The more we practice, the more we will recognize how God speaks to us. John Wimber said faith is spelled R-I-S-K!

Second we must “absorb” ourselves in the prophetic ministry. When I recognized the desire to hear God’s voice I focused and went after it! I read everything I could, associated myself with prophetic people and went to prophetic conferences.

REACH BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE

Simple Ways to Grow in the Prophetic

1. Want it
2. Place a value upon it
3. Become a friend of God, a Son and the Bride
4. Begin each day in listening and talking with God
5. Soaking, learn to quiet your mind
6. Renew your mind with the Word
7. Be filled with the Holy Spirit
8. Sanctify your imagination
9. Become heavenly minded
10. Position yourself for prophetic encounters
11. Make sure your motives are pure
12. Walk in the fruit of the Holy Spirit
13. Love above all
14. Believe in the works that Jesus did, you can
15. Exercise and test your faith
16. Intentionally build relationships with prophetic people
17. Be teachable
18. Be accountable to spiritual mentors
19. Be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit
20. Trust the voice of the Holy Spirit
21. Be obedient in the small things

ACTIVATION – Prophetic Groups

HOMEWORK – Set the next week aside with daily deep unto deep prayer, go deeper, and become a friend of God.

NOTES