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Welcome to the:

PROPHETIC TRAINING



LESSON FIVE

HOW TO RECEIVE PROPHETIC WORDS

Involvement in Prophetic Ministry means that since we will be around prophetic people, we will receive many prophetic words for ourselves. Accurately interpreting these words is important and our interpretation is not just a process of knowing scripture but also of having a transformed heart.

A transformed heart comes not from just “knowing about God”, but “knowing God”. Jesus said that as we “know Him” we are like sheep that will follow that voice and will not be deceived by the voice of a stranger.

Types of Prophetic Words

Prophetic words can be classified in three different categories;

Biblical Words – Words that have direct Biblical reference. Such as, “I hear the Lord saying, Go into all the world and preach the Gospel”.

Extra-Biblical Words – Prophetic utterances not explicitly stated in the Bible. Such as, “I hear the Lord saying, You are to go to Africa and preach the Gospel”.

Anti-Biblical Words – False words that are contrary to scripture. Such as, “I hear the Lord saying, Divorce your spouse and go to Africa and preach the Gospel”.

Guidelines for Judging Prophetic Words

1. Don't stifle or despise prophecy, but test it.
2. Always seek the Lord's guidance through prayer and meditations.

3. When receiving a prophetic word, immediately turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him what to do with what you have heard. The interpretation and application belongs to Him.
4. The word must line up with the teaching and principles of Scriptures as well as the heart of Father God.
5. It must bear witness with the spirit of the one who receives it. Or is there a check in your spirit?
6. The fruit of the prophetic word must be that the person receiving it is brought closer to God and His people.
7. Compare the word against things God has spoken into your life through prior prophecies, personal devotions, pastoral counsel, etc.
8. If you have any questions, alarm, fear or discomfort about a particular word, run it by your pastor or mentor. **(Deut 13:5)**
9. The word must edify and build up.
10. Remember, “we prophecy in part” **(1 Cor 13:9)**. You may need further revelation on the word.
11. Do not “read into” the word what you want it to say.
12. Do not act upon any predictive, directive words unless you have confirmation from other sources. Ask the Lord what His time frame is for the word.
13. Beware of corrective, judgmental or condemning prophecy.**(1 Cor 14:3)**
14. Beware of prophecies that bring fear or confusion. **(Romans 8:15)**
15. Prophetic words often bring clarification and confirmation.

Judging the Interpretation

It is easy to misjudge a prophetic word by missing the timing or the meaning of the prophecy. We can misjudge a prophetic word by our own limited understanding, opinions or biases.

If prophecy goes against or contradicts scripture, throw it out! However, the prophecy can be correct but against our understanding of scripture.

An example of this is Peter’s vision in Joppa:

Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell

into a trance; and he saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean." **(Acts 10:9-14)**

Peter's vision was a direct contradiction of laws taught in the OT, but the interpretation was not about the type of food Peter was supposed to eat, but who the gospel was to be preached to. Peter finally got the correct interpretation;

God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. **(Acts 10:28)**

Inaccurate Words

Any of us who have been around prophetic ministry can understand why Paul had to say the following:

Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; **(1 Thess 5:19-21)**

If Paul would bring up the subject that we should not despise prophecy, that means that we may want to at times. Many churches and, in response to poor and abusive prophetic ministry, have eliminated the gifts of the Holy Spirit from their services. The fear of "false prophets" within the church has quenched the gift of prophecy within the church.

How do we handle incorrect prophecy? It is important to remember that we are all in training and prophetic people can make a mistake without being false prophets. We have to not judge ones who just "miss it" so much as they could be doing the best they can for where they are in their faith.

Even the apostles and prophets in the Bible gave prophecies that were not entirely accurate.

Agabus the prophet prophesied that Paul would be bound by the Jews in Jerusalem and handed over to the Gentiles:

As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. (Acts 21:10-11)

What actually happened was that the Roman soldiers (Gentiles) rescued Paul from the Jews and it was the soldiers who bound Paul, not the Jews:

While they were seeking to kill him, a report came up to the commander of the Roman cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. At once he took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; and he began asking who he was and what he had done. (Acts 21:31-33)

Another example is found when Paul gave a word to the crew of a ship he was about to sail on:

Paul began to admonish them, and said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." (Acts 27:9-10)

Paul later corrected himself after an encounter with an angel, only the ship would be lost, but the crew would be saved. Paul did not have it right the first time!

...then Paul stood up in their midst and said, "Men, you ought to have followed my advice and not to have set sail from Crete and incurred this damage and loss. "Yet now I urge you to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood before me, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.' (Acts 27:21-25)

Receiving Negative Words

What do you do with a negative word? A negative word that is given by an immature prophet can release that reality in your life. A correct word given in the wrong spirit can cause damage. The Lord will also give us words of warning and correction.

Moses received a negative word concerning the sin of the people:

The Lord spoke further to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, it is a stubborn people. 'Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they. (Deut 9:13-14)

Moses interceded for 40 days and changed the circumstances. Remember, your prayers and intercession is powerful!

So I fell down before the Lord the forty days and nights, which I did because the Lord had said He would destroy you. "I prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord God, do not destroy Your people, even Your inheritance, whom You have redeemed through Your greatness, whom You have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. (Deut 9:25-26)

Another example of prayer changing a prophetic word is the prophetic word given to Hezekiah from the prophet Isaiah concerning Hezekiah's illness:

In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' (2 Kings 20:1)

The power of Hezekiah's prayer is evident when the Lord added 15 years to his life as a result of those prayers:

Then he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, saying, "Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus

says the Lord, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. "I will add fifteen years to your life, (2 Kings 20:2-6)

False Prophets

The Bible warns of false prophets many times, especially in these "last days".

"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. "You will know them by their fruits. (Matt 7:15-16)

A false prophet is not someone who gives a bad or inaccurate word but someone who prophesies from a wrong spirit or an evil heart. A false prophet is able to prophecy accurately from a demonic spirit. Paul encountered such a person in the following verses. The entire prophecy that was given was correct. Demons can operate accurately in the Word of Knowledge because they can see and hear. Demons cannot prophesy the future, if they could the devil would never have put into the hearts of the people to crucify Jesus!

It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who were bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. (Acts 16:16-18)

Characteristics of False Prophets (Acts 16:16-18)

1. They operate from a spirit of divination.
2. They knowingly deceive people.
3. They knowingly use signs and wonders to deceive people. **(Mark 13:22)**
4. They use flattery, seduction and manipulation (Jezebel spirit)

Another type of false prophet is one who started out right, but allowed compromise and sin into their lives and has fallen away from God. They can still operate in the prophetic gift:

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Rom 11:29)

Characteristics of False Prophets – issues of the Heart:

1. They have a wounded heart.
2. They lose accountability to the scripture and place themselves above the Word of God.
3. Their heart is closed to new revelation and unwilling to allow people to test their prophecy.
4. They seek to promote themselves and their own personal agendas
5. They prophesy for personal gain, either wealth or influence. They prophesy what people want to hear for personal gain.
6. Draw people to themselves instead of Jesus.
7. We will know them by their fruit, they do not walk in the Fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. A true prophet will demonstrate the character of the Holy Spirit.

The Prophetic Word Often Comes as a Seed

*"Hear then the parable of the sower. "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was **sown beside the road**. "The one on whom seed was **sown on the rocky places**, this is*

*the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. "And the one on whom seed was **sown among the thorns**, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. "And the one on whom seed was **sown on the good soil**, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty." (Matt 13:18-23)*

1. **Seeds Beside the Road** – Speaks of when we do not take time to properly receive, mediate and test the word to understand it for your lives.
2. **Seeds Sown on Rocky Places** – Speaks of when we allow the attacks by the enemy which are met to stop the release of God plans and purposes to lives to be successful.
3. **Seeds Sown Among the Thorns** - Speaks of when we allow the temptations and worries of this world choke out our pursuit of God's purposes for our lives.
4. **Seeds Sown on Good Soil** – Speaks of when God's plan and purposes in our life are allowed to grow into maturity and become fruitful.

Seeds sown are the prophetic words spoken from the heart of God and are the "Word of the Kingdom" as described in v.18. Words from the Lord are precious and God does use people to deliver those words to us. Just because they are spoken to us from someone else, even a friend does not make them less important than if an angel or the Lord Himself spoke them to us. We should never be so busy that we just "put the word on the shelf" and move on without processing what the Lord is saying.

We should journal our prophetic words and take time to go back and read them, asking the Holy Spirit to give us revelation and understanding. We first allow our true prophetic words to be seeds within our heart, after we receive the word we must learn to water the word.

Birthing Prophetic Seeds in the Glory

We must play our part in order to have prophecy come to pass. It is vital to realize that even accurate prophecies about the future do not usually come to pass automatically. We have to do something in order for them to be fulfilled.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Gen 1:1-3)

During creation there were two powerful forces present. First was the Spirit of God which was hovering or moving over the surface of the waters. The Spirit of God is the very Essence of God, the Presence of God or the Glory of God.

The second powerful force present during creation was "Then God said", or the Word of God. These two powerful forces, The Presence or Glory of God and the Word of God when combined together have creative power.

As we worship, whether it is in our corporate or individual time, often the Presence of God, or his Glory will manifest in our midst. The prophetic promises spoken over our lives are the Word of God. Take the words that are burning within your heart and prophesy them into the Glory. As you do this you are bringing the same two powerful forces that were present during creation.

Activation

Practice in a group setting. Separate into groups of 4 to 6 people. Choose one member and have everyone prophesy to that person. Ask a member of the group to write down the prophetic words. After the person has received a prophetic word from each person in the group have the person who received the prophetic words to judge and give feedback to the group.

Homework

Remember and review previous prophetic words that have been given to you. Write them in your journal if you have not done so yet. Begin to mediate and pray over these words. Ask the Lord which ones you should begin to birth now. Birth those words in the glory!

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