

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Session 12: The Gift of Prophet

Distinguishing Between the Gift of Prophecy & Gift of Prophet

- 1 Cor. 12:10 identifies the gift of prophecy while Eph. 4:12 identifies the gift of prophet. There is a distinction.
- The Bible says that all believers may prophesy (1 Cor. 14:1), but all believers are not called into the ministry or role of prophet.
- A pastor may occasionally prophesy out of compassion to encourage a new believer. A prophet will prophesy a lot because that's his main calling.

Some Indicators of a Prophetic Calling

- You have an insatiable desire to experience the presence of God and hear his voice
- Your life tends to be focused on worship and prayer
- You are very spiritually sensitive and often emotionally sensitive as well
- "Everything" in life has a spiritual meaning behind it
- You seldom fit into status quo Christianity
- You are a forerunner and visionary, zealous for spiritual awakening.

Some of the Roles of a Prophet

1. Prayer And Intercession

- The reason we don't see the title of intercessor in the scripture is because the intercessor call is really a prophetic calling
- Prophets speak forth the immediate word of God and they can because they live close to His heart
- Prophets are often prayer leaders. They provide prayer points and strategies to help other believers pray more effectively.
- They will willingly take on long term prayer burdens that God gives them

2. Receiving the Word of the Lord

- The immediate word of the Lord comes in worship, prayer, Bible study reading the news and just about activity
- Prophets usually keep journals to record what they hear/see
- Revelation often comes in symbolic form that sometimes needs to be interpreted later
- Prophetic experiences include dreams, visions, trances, angelic visitations, and third heaven experiences. But visions are the norm.

3. Worship

- Worship Leader is also a title not mentioned in the NT. But they typically carry the prophetic anointing.
- Prophets often prophesy through music. David did so. Much of the Psalms originally were prophetic songs
- Prophetic worship can be God encounters that often radically transform lives.

4. Hope & Encouragement

- The prophet sees beyond other's fearful, devastating troubles to their bright future
- Words of hope and encouragement are declared both to individuals and in the corporate setting

- It can make the difference in one's life between giving up or persevering into breakthrough

5. Foretelling the Future and Announcing Seasons of God

- Both Joseph, and Agabus (Acts 11:27) predicted famines which enabled leaders to make preparations to survive it
- OT prophets warned of coming judgment which often brought repentance
- God does different things in different seasons. Prophets declare the new season so God's people know what to do (1 Chr. 12: 32)

6. Destiny, Guidance

- Kings in the OT would often ask a prophet for the word of the Lord before they go into battle
- Though every Christian needs to get their own word from the Lord mature prophets can bring light and wisdom to help others making tough decisions
- Prophets see God's calling and destiny on individuals and ministries. Speaking it forth brings encouragement clarifies vision and aids decision making.

7. Correction and Judgment

- On a more negative side prophets sometimes need to expose and reprimand God's people as Nathan exposed David's adultery
- A true prophet will boldly bring correction with grace, love and hope.
- Jeremiah's lifelong ministry was to declare judgment on Israel because of her sins
- With the coming of Christ, judgmental prophesies are far less, though needed at times

8. Prophets to the Nations

- Some prophets are called to give prophesies over nations and to national leaders. This is particularly seen in the words of the major OT prophets
- Their words may be warnings, words of destiny, and/or blessing.
- Many well-known contemporary prophets operate in this way today

9. New Testament versus Old Testament Prophets

- There is a clear distinction between the way NT and OT prophets function
- OT prophets often operated alone while NT ones worked in teams alongside apostles
- OT prophets gave the final word while in the NT prophets are encouraged to judge each other's word (1 Cor. 14:29)
- OT prophets did not carry the grace and mercy of the NT ones because Christ had not yet come.

Some Keys to Grow In Your Prophetic Gift

- Be teachable and grow in humility. The prophetic anointing can have a tendency to puff one up and make them useless.
- Learn to not hold an offense. Offense in one's soul skews prophetic words
- Find an environment where your prophetic gift is accepted. Learn from prophetic moms and dads.
- Meditate much on the scriptures which is the highest form of prophecy
- Immature prophets should exercise their prophetic gift with qualifying words like "I see this", "I hear this", not with "thus says the Lord". It lowers the risk and encourages practice and growth.