Preparing For The Prophetic Workbook

Understanding the Gist of Prophecy & Office of the Prophet
Introduction:

Today we continue our study on *Foundations of the Apostolic/Prophetic*. We have learned thus far that the New Testament declares that these dual offices are *foundational* to the church (Eph 2:19-22; 1 Cor 12:28). Clearly, there needs to be a restoration of the New Testament office of both the apostle and prophet. In these days, there is a critical need for the Church as a whole to become an apostolic force and prophetic voice in the world.
HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY PROPHETS

Today we will FOCUS our study on the ministry of the PROPHET and Prophecy in contemporary society.

OLD TESTAMENT SEERS & PROPHETS

The general Heb. word for prophet in the Old Testament is nabi’, from the verb naba’ which means "to announce, call or declare." The primary idea of a prophet, therefore, is a declarer, announcer, one who utters a communication. Two other Heb. words, ra’ah and chozeh, are used to designate the prophet, both meaning "one who ____________________," and sometimes rendered "__________________." These three words occur in 1 Chr. 29:29, where they seem to be contrasted with each other: "Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Samuel the seer [ra’ah], in the chronicles of Nathan the prophet [nabi’], and in the chronicles of Gad the seer [chozeh].

James Goll has the following to say about the distinction between seers and prophets:

What is the difference between a prophet and a seer? For now, let us say that all true seers are prophets, but not all prophets are seers. Within the overall realm of the prophet lies the particular and distinctive realm of the Seer. The word ‘seer’ describes a particular type of prophet who receives a particular type of prophetic revelation or impartation.

The Old Testament uses two words primarily to refer to a seer: ra’ah and chozeh. Ra'ah literally means "to see," particularly in the sense of seeing visions. Other meanings include to "gaze," to "look upon," and to "perceive." Chozeh literally means "a beholder in vision."

With these definitions now in place, the distinction between a prophet (nabiy') and a seer (ra'ah or chozeh) becomes a little clearer. When it comes to prophetic revelation, a prophet is primarily an inspired hearer and then speaker, while a seer is primarily visual. In other words, the prophet is the communicative dimension and the seer is the receptive dimension. Nabiy emphasizes the active work of the prophet in speaking forth a message from God, Ra'ah and Chozeh focus on the experience or means by which the prophet "sees or perceives" that message. The first lays emphasis on a prophet's relationship with the people: the nabi speaks to the people; the other, on their revelatory relationship with God.”

Interestingly, in 1 Samuel 9:9 we are instructed that the term seer was eventually discarded for the name prophet. Formerly in Israel, if a man went to inquire of God, he would say, “Come, let us go to the seer,” because the prophet [nabi] of today used to be called a seer [ro’eh].”
NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET/PROPHECY:

PROPHECY, PROPHESY, PROPHESYING signifies "the _________________ of the mind and counsel of God" (pro, "forth," phemi, "to speak"). In Classical Gk. prophetes signifies "one who speaks for another," especially "one who speaks for a god" and so interprets his will to man. Hence its essential meaning is "an interpreter."

DISTINCTION BETWEEN OLD & NEW TESTAMENT PROPHET’S/PROPHECY

There is a difference from the Old Testament ministry of a prophet and the New Testament prophetic ministry. This difference is due largely because of the _________________ ministry of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. We can understand that there was a limited function of the Holy Spirit that existed in Old Testament times and a new expanded ministry of the Holy Spirit after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ in the New Covenant. Therefore, there is a sense that all can prophesy in the New Testament since all have the Holy Spirit. In a sense the seer and the prophet have come together in one in the New Testament.

Anyone who is saved and receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit can minister in the gifts of the Spirit.

• “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy” (1 Cor. 14:1). ·
• “For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted” (1 Cor. 14:31). ·
• "And it shall be in the last days," God says, "That I will pour forth of my Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my bond slaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17-18).

ELEMENTS OF PROPHECY

On the whole, it would seem that are two aspects of the prophetic: · _________________
– perceive the will and mind of God · _________________ – speak it forth
Christ as Prophet

Jesus was the quintessential prophet. A prophet of God is someone who hears and sees from God, reveals God, speaks for God the truths that God wants them to know. Jesus did this when he came to do the will of the Father (Luke 22:42), to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27), and to speak the things of the Father (John 8:28; 12:49).

In the Old Testament Moses said in Deut. 18:15, “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.” This prophecy is quoted by Peter in Acts 3:22-23 in reference to Jesus. Moreover, Jesus refers to himself as a prophet:

- Luke 13:33, "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem."
- Matt. 13:57, “But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown, and in his own household.” And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief."

We observe the two prophetic principles of revelation and proclamation in operation in the life of Christ as recorded in John 3:32, “And what He has ____________________ and ____________________, that He testifies....”

- Rev 19:10 confirms this: “For the ____________________ of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

As a prophet, the success of Jesus’ ministry was simple: He only spoke the words and shared the visions His Father gave Him. “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak” (John 12:49).

- John 5:19-20, “Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does.”

NEW TESTAMENT PROPHETS

- The ____________________ - Acts 13:1
- ____________________   ____________________ - Acts 21:8-10
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROPHETS AND PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is one of the nine gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

We are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts. Earnestly desire means to "earnestly long for"—God wants us to pursue His gifts! He desires to give us His gifts more than we could ever want them.

Prophecy Is a Gift—Not an Award for Being Super Spiritual

This means that even very gifted people are not necessarily mature Christians. They may not even have good character. Therefore, the gifts of the Spirit do not validate our walk with God. It is the fruit of the Spirit that is developed as a person matures in Christ. The Greek word for gift is "charisma," which means, "favor that one receives without any merit of his own." The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of maturity in our lives. These fruits grow in our lives as we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and not just through us. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).

PROPHETS

Christ gave the prophets to the church as a gift (See Eph. 4:7-13). The prophet equips the church with eyes to see and ears to hear. The grace prophets carry can cause people to be able to hear the voice of the Spirit. Prophets have the authority to correct and direct because they are Five-fold Ministers.

A Life Calling

The office of the prophet is a life calling. Most prophets are called at birth or when they are born again. It is not something you ask for or seek to become. It is the Lord's choosing. However, if you are called, you still have the responsibility to develop your gift. (See Romans 12:6, NIV).

The Call of God and the Gift of God

To be a prophet is a ______________. To minister in prophecy is a ______________.

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 Christ gave to men are other men. A prophet is a gift to the church.
The Calling, Gifting and Anointing

There are actually three components to any mature ministry. These components include calling, gifting, and anointing—all important elements of fruitful ministry.

**Calling gives** _________________. "Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God" (1 Cor. 1:1).

**Gifting gives** _________________. "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

**Anointing gives** _________________. "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to prisoners" (Isa. 61:1).

The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable, but the anointing of the Lord ebbs and flows according to the relationship we have with the Holy Spirit. We are to prophesy “in proportion with our faith” (Romans 12:6). Therefore, it is imperative that we keep our faith strong if we are going to flow in the prophetic gifting or office of a prophet for optimal effect.

1. The calling on our life describes ________________we are.
2. The anointing of God provides us with our *purpose* in life, i.e., ________________we are to do.
3. The gifts that God has given to us become the *abilities* in which we accomplish His purposes or in other words, the ________________.

**HOW PROPHETS AND THE GIFT OF PROPHECY SERVES THE BODY OF CHRIST & THE WORLD**

1. **To ________________ and Impart Grace in the Local Assembly**
   "But he that prophesies speaks unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort" (1 Cor 14:3). 1 Corinthians 14 references the importance of this ministry in the local church.

2. **Foretell the Future and Admonish for Preparation**
   *Acts 11:27-29* - During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)
3. **Prophetic ________________**
   “In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul” (Acts 13:1).

- **Gal 1:11-12** – “I want you to know, brothers that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

Paul knew the teachings of Jesus. However, this is not enough. There must be a process where we receive the word by the Spirit of revelation and communicate in the power and anointing of the Spirit! **Jeremiah 23:30** - "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words everyone from his neighbor” NIV.

4. **Awaken the Sinner or Slumbering Saint**
   1 Cor 14:24-25 – “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

5. **The ______________ Authority of the Prophet (Agabus)**
   Acts 21:10, “After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.”

**List names of some Old Testament seers and prophets:**

Seers: ________________________, ________________________,
       ________________________, ________________________

Prophets: ________________________, ________________________,
         ________________________, ________________________
SESSION OBJECTIVE:
Learn how to prepare and hone your spiritual senses so as to be able to receive revelation from the Holy Spirit so as to be able to communicate it prophetically to others.

INTRODUCTION:
Although no one can attain to the office of a prophet by their own volition or effort, we are exhorted in the word of God to eagerly desire to prophesy (1 Cor. 14:1). The New Covenant is the Age of the Holy Spirit. Our text is clear that the gift of prophecy would accompany the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world! That is precisely what has happened in the Early Church as the Gospel spread throughout the Roman Empire. “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all” (see Acts 19:6-7). Today, the same phenomenon is occurring all over the world!

Jesus died on the Cross, not just to forgive our sins, but ultimately to grant us eternal life (See John 3:16; 10:10). Eternal life is found in a relationship with a Person: Christ Jesus our Lord. “I am the way, the truth and the life...” Jesus declared (John 14:6). It is impossible to have eternal life without a relationship with the Son. “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

Just as everlasting life is eternal communion with God, the antithesis, everlasting death, is eternal estrangement or separation from the Lord. What makes hell so dreadful is that one is shut out from the presence of the Lord forever. “...In
flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

In a relationship, communication is essential. Some believers have a problem believing that God wants to talk to everyone. In the Garden of Eden the Lord walked with Adam and Eve and spoke with them (Genesis 3:8-11). Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10). Intimacy with God was the most valuable treasure that was forfeited as a result of the sin and disobedience of the man and his wife.

Now that we have been saved, we are reconciled to God so that we can experience intimate communion with Him. This naturally includes hearing Christ’s voice. Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice…” (John 10:27). It also involves as seeing the Christ. “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me” (John 14:19).

Therefore, prophecy, in its simplest form is repeating what one has heard from the Holy Spirit and revealing what one has seen through an open heaven. “And He said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man’” (John 1:51).

God wants each one of His children to hear from Him and to prophesy. Paul said it this way, "For you can all prophesy one by one…” (1 Cor. 14:31). Moses said, "Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!” (Num. 11:29). Sometimes the reason is simply so we can personally know what to do in a situation. David inquired of the Lord for counsel and the Lord answered him in clear unmistakable terms. “So David inquired of the LORD, saying, ‘Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?’ And He answered him, ‘Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all’ (1 Samuel 30:8).

Sometimes it is for the sake of others that we need to hear God’s counsel. Such was the case of Joseph in Egypt. He heard from God and implemented a plan to preserve the nation of Egypt and even his father’s house during a time of severe drought and famine (Cf. Genesis 41:25-36; 45:7).

**KEY VERSES:**

“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. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy” (Acts 2:17-18).
LEARNING HOW TO HEAR GOD’S VOICE

There are some necessary prerequisites if you are to come to know the voice of God. A prerequisite is something you must do before you can do something else. It is something required before you are able to reach a certain goal. Our goal is to come to know the voice of God. In the natural world you do not recognize the voice of a stranger. You recognize voices of those you know and with whom you have developed a relationship. The same is true in the spiritual world. If you are to come to know God's voice, you must first come to know God and develop an intimate relationship with Him and mature in your faith.

In the natural world when a baby is born he must attain a certain level of maturity before he begins to recognize the voice of his parents. The same is true in the spiritual world. When you are first born again you may not be able to recognize the voice of God when He speaks to you. When you first receive the Holy Spirit you may not always understand when the Spirit reveals God's will to you. But the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal God's will and guide you. As you mature spiritually, you will come to recognize this voice within your spirit.

The Bible speaks of this parallel between the natural and spiritual:

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil” (Hebrews 5:13-14)

The "milk" and "meat" mentioned in these verses refer to the written Word of God, the Holy Bible. When you are first born again you start learning some of the simple truths (milk) of God. As you continue to renew your mind by the word of God your spiritual senses sharpen and mature. You begin can then intentionally exercise them to discern good and evil be able to distinguish God’s will and His way from the wrong ways of life.

Your mind is naturally conformed to the principles of the world around you. It happens because of your basic sin nature. It also happens through the influence of our culture. But God says we are not to conform to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (See Romans 12:2). The word "transform" means to be changed into a new image. The pattern for that image is the Lord Jesus Christ:

“But we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18).
According to Romans 12:2, transformation comes through the renewing of our minds. This means we must discard worldly standards and principles and conform to the principles revealed in God's written Word. Your mind is transformed as you develop the mind of Christ:

• Let this __________ be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:5) The word "let" indicates that you have to make a choice in order to have the mind of Christ. You must permit the transformation of the mind to happen. You have a responsibility in development of the transformed mind. It is not something done automatically for you by God:

• Wherefore gird up the __________ of your mind. (I Peter 1:13) To "gird up" the mind means to clothe or protect your mental powers. To transform or gird up the mind, it is necessary to immerse it in the Word of God. Search the Bible to discover what type of mind was in Christ. Your mind is transformed as God puts His laws into it:

• . . . I will put my laws into their mind. (Hebrews 8:10) Use the power of the mind to cast down and bring into captivity wrong thoughts:

• Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:5)

You have the responsibility to control your thought life:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. (Philippians 4:8) Then you can say with Paul:

• But we have the mind of Christ. (I Corinthians 2:6) The mind of Christ was set and determined to do the will of God. Likewise we must be predisposed to do the will of God or we will not be trusted with further revelation from the Spirit. “Then He said to them, Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. 25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him” (Mark 4:24-25).

WILLING TO DO THE WILL OF GOD

“Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own” (John 7:17 NLT). (See also, Jeremiah
WHO IS THIS?

John the apostle instructs us to "not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1). In this passage of Scripture, it is made clear that we are able to hear from spirits other than the Holy Spirit and are warned not to listen to the wrong spirit! As you are transformed by the renewing of your mind you will begin to discern between what voices are speaking. Voices that speak to us come from four sources:

1. **The Holy Spirit:** This is God's Spirit, the one who we are building a relationship with and learning to hear clearly.

2. ___________________ of Your Heart:

“And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, “Hear the word of the LORD!” “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!’” (Ezekiel 13:1-2).

If you are determined to do your own will and not the Lord’s, you set yourself up for possible deception if you keep persisting in your ways. Read Ezekiel 14 as there are warnings in it regarding those that are determined to do their own will and not God’s.

3. ________________ spirits: Spirits from the evil realm can speak to Christians just as they spoke to Jesus when He encountered Satan in the wilderness.

4. **The Voices of _________________:** Many times people come to us saying that they have a word from the Lord for us or at least offering us their opinions. We must be able to distinguish between when it is God speaking through men or men speaking saying it is God. There is a difference!
TRUE AND FALSE PROPHETS

FIVE TESTS OF A TRUE PROPHET

1. Does the prophet believe in the redemptive work of the Son of God alone as the means of salvation?

2. False prophets do not like to listen to anyone. They believe that they hear directly from God at all times and have no need to be taught by others. God tells them everything they need to know.

3. False prophets are often motivated by a need to ___________ _________________ and not by the love of God for His people.

4. False prophets commonly use ______________________ to motivate people.

5. False Prophets are not in ______________________________ with other Christians.

STIRRING UP THE PROPHETIC

• Edification: Study what the Word of God says about prophets and the prophetic. Pray in the Spirit often! Build up your faith!

• ________________________________: The most common way to receive spiritual gifts is by having someone who is already gifted lay hands on you and pray for an impartation of the gift or gifts of the Holy Spirit.
  o “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established” (Romans 1:11).
  o “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:6).
  o “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership” (1 Tim 4:14).

• Association: “Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise” (1 Samuel 19:20-21).
PROPHETIC PROTOCOL

From the book, Basic Training For Prophetic Ministry by Kris Vallotton The following examples illustrate times when it is inappropriate to give a prophetic word:

1. When we are angry or have strong, negative emotional feelings toward the person or people for whom we have a prophetic word.

2. When we use prophecy as a "platform" to validate our personal doctrines or belief system. Example: "I, the Lord, say to you tonight thou shall not go to movies!"

3. When we have no relationship or accountability to the person or group of people receiving our prophecy. It is important for prophetic people to have a sense of ownership of the people to whom they are ministering. Too often people have an "us" and "them" attitude toward the people they are ministering to. This is unhealthy and dishonoring.

• Authority = Accountability + Responsibility + Accessibility

DELIVERY OF THE PROPHETIC WORD

The following are practical guidelines for ministering and delivering prophetic words:

1. Love must be at the center of all that we do in Christ. When we are ministering in the gifts of the Spirit, our motive must always be to bring out the best in people.

2. If you have not already been released to minister prophetically at your church, the appropriate way to deliver a prophetic word is to submit it to the person or persons in charge of the service. These people are able to determine if a prophetic word will be fitting for a particular service. Always check to see what the protocol is for ministering prophetically in a church in advance.

3. NEGATIVE AND/OR JUDGMENTAL WORDS

The Bible is clear that life and death are in our words. When we give people negative words, we often release death over them. Our goal is to be a part of a ministry that releases life and calls out the best in people.
WARNING OR JUDGMENT WORDS
The following guidelines will help if you receive multiple warning or judgment words.

1. Ask yourself if negative words are common to you. If a high percentage of the prophetic revelation you receive is negative, you may be the problem.

2. Occasionally the Lord will warn of upcoming dangerous or negative situations. He informs us so we might pray for our or someone else's safety. Pray until the burden lifts.

3. If the warning persists, we should submit the word to our leadership. Once it is given over to them and we have relinquished ownership, they are now responsible. God will speak to them as we pray for Him to give them wisdom and guidance regarding the word.