

How to **PROPHECY**

Exciting Activation of
your Prophetic Gift



Dr Francois
Engelbrecht

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Dedication

God is raising up a global prophetic movement, who are preparing the Bride of Christ for His soon return to planet earth. We are bringing new wine to new wineskins into every sphere of life and we are recapturing every mountain of influence.

I dedicate this book to all of you who hunger and thirst for more of God's presence every day and who yearn for an ongoing worldwide revival.

May you experience His love and power in an increasing measure and may all your senses be activated to know His voice and His will all the time.

May you be part of the next generation living in the supernatural, proclaiming God's love and transforming nations through an authentic, prophetic lifestyle.

Endorsements

“This Spirit-filled, easy to understand book about the Prophetic Gift, is indeed a gift basket full of exciting information about the Gift of Prophecy to explore within every page. It opens up this Gift in such a way that there can be no doubt by the reader that this book has been written under guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

Dr Christa van den Berg – Director Counselling.

This is truly a remarkable, inspiring and comprehensive workbook about the prophetic for this season of the explosive harvest of souls worldwide! The clear lay-out of the prophetic function to the Body of Christ and God’s end-time purpose for the world, stirs an appetizing hunger for His Presence to release and manifest the love of God in a way the world has never seen or experienced! May this book draw you to a deeper intimacy with the One who gave the prophetic as a gift to the church!

Mark Loretz – Senior Pastor, Life & Business Coach at Motiv-8.

“How to Prophecy” is a must read for the end time church. The Body of Christ more than ever needs the prophetic to encourage and edify its members in the face of challenging times to come. The move of the Holy Spirit through the prophetic allows us to hear God’s heart for His children as we swiftly hurtle toward that day of His Son’s return. This book provides an excellent introduction and base for learning and sharpening of the prophetic ability, whether you are new to this gift or a seasoned prophet. It is time for the Church to walk in the fullness of what He has gifted us by walking in the prophetic under His guidance.

Dr Elmari Marais – Author & Business Executive.

If you are one of those who refuse to settle for less than all that God has planned for His Bride; one of those who yearns to partner and serve with Holy Spirit – then this book will inspire you to recklessly surrender all of yourself to be used by Him in communing a Divine dialogue of passionate deliberations, timeless inspirations, creative thoughts and powerful plans to His beloved.

Dr Helette Louw – ChristCreations Ministries.

It is the time for the Body of Christ that we will engage and partner with Abba Father in what He is saying and doing in order for us to release His purposes over people, situations and Nations. In this book on "How to Prophecy" the believer will find the practical tools and be able to apply them in an effort to release heaven on earth. I strongly recommend you reading and applying it.

Johanna Carstens – Pastor and Dean PowerTeam.

This prophetic book reminds me of the soon second coming of Christ Jesus. The 5-fold ministries have to equip the bride of Christ to be ready and to do the work of the ministry – and this book is doing exactly that. It is an excellent tool God has given to Francois to sharpen our spiritual senses and to open up the supernatural in the prophetic ministry.

Jonathan Duniya Peters – Pastor and Media Director.

The prophetic, signs, wonders and miracles are very relevant in this day and age. I give praise to the Lord for a man like Francois Engelbrecht whom He has equipped to impart his wisdom and gift to the church.

Mark Killian – Pastor and Founder: New Life Apostolic House

The work reflects mature insight into the prophetic. It also provides fresh revelation and different perspectives on the prophetic that will stimulate your learning.

Dr Annerine Roos – University of Stellenbosch.

What an excellent resource! I highly recommend this book. It is refreshing and unlike any other approach to this subject. Francois has had many years of experience in training and equipping prophetic people, and draws from these in his writing. "How to prophesy" will be of great and significant value to those wishing to understand more of the times we face, and of the uncharted waters which lie ahead of us. This book should have a wide readership and it will help many who are on the journey of discovering their destiny in God.

Zoe van der Merwe – Prophet and Founder of Zoe Life Ministries.

Prophecy is a powerful tool in the hand of the believer. It is life-giving and it transforms character. Once a word is spoken by God, it echoes through the realms of eternity, making its way into the earthly realm, arresting the spirit of man to speak forth the oracles of God. Those

words spoken by God will not return empty and void, but will accomplish what it is purposed for. Are you ready to move beyond the borders of limitation, fear, lack of knowledge and restraint? Are you ready to step over from the known into the unknown, encountering God? Then this book is for you!

Susan van Niekerk – Pastor and Church Planter.

Coming from a very conservative background, I initially found this book a stretch, but as I worked through Dr Francois' teaching, I began to experience hearing God's voice in new, more distinct ways; and found myself speaking His words to others with greater freedom and effect.

I highly recommend "How to Prophecy!" to anyone who really desires to have the Holy Spirit work through them in greater measure. Dr Francois is an excellent teacher and coach; his gentle style is easy to understand, inspirational, and intensely practical.

You will not read this book only once, but many times, and each time you go back, you will find new gems and new applications. Whether you are new to the prophetic gifting, or seasoned in it, this book will open your mind to new possibilities and new adventures – so let the journey begin!

René Kirsten – Author and Business Woman.

This book will unlock the revelation of heaven and bring prophetic understanding to your life. There is such a great degree of prophetic knowledge that God wants to reveal in this season. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that we understand the prophetic times and seasons, in order for us to understand God's prophetic perspective for where the body of Christ is at this time. "HOW TO PROPHECY" will help you to accurately align your understanding with what heaven is saying, in the NOW.

Lionel Rose – Revelation Ministries International, Senior Pastor and Founder.

About the Author



Dr Francois Engelbrecht is the founder of Powerhouse International. He is a Professor at Team Impact Christian University and a regular speaker on Radio and Television programs. He travels globally to speak at Conferences and to equip and empower Leaders. He conducts Prophetic and Healing meetings worldwide.

Francois is a passionate entrepreneur and served in Executive Leadership positions in a variety of organizations. He is a trained and experienced Mentor and a Business Coach with a passion to see people reach their purpose and destiny. He loves to unlock potential in people and in business. He is married to Dorita and they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Citations

- ☛ ***To prophesy you have to step into open heavens. You have to go beyond the veil and enter the world of the supernatural. That is why prophetic people are firstly people of God's presence.***

We as Christians should all be air conditioners - we should change the atmosphere wherever we go. This is especially true when there are wicked forces influencing the atmosphere.

We had to go through five or six gates on the gravel road before we could get on to the main road. All of us counted out loud as we passed through each gate. After the count of three, we were suddenly on the main road. I was astonished and then my daughter said: "Dad, we were transported by God – I experienced it while it was happening." ☛

Acknowledgements

God

Thank You *Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit* for opening up the supernatural realm of the Prophetic to all of us! Thank you for speaking to us through all our senses and for sharing Your secrets with us. We know that there is so much more and we are excited to see, hear and experience more of You. Thank You for Your guidance and anointing to complete this book!

Dorita

Thank you so much Dorita, my wonderful wife, for your support and encouragement while I am writing. What a privilege to have a Prophet of God with so much insight next to me all the time. I love and appreciate you!

Clive Thompson

Clive, you are the best! Thank you for sharing your in-depth knowledge and insight regarding layout, creative design, technical detail and publishing. I'm so glad I found you!

Val Waldeck

Val, thank you for continuously sharing your expertise in writing and publishing with me. You are an inspiration and I pray that many authors will be uplifted to the next level by meeting with you!

Precious Friends

Thank you to all our friends living a prophetic lifestyle and by that encouraging us to go deeper. Thank you for everyone who did the proofreading and who recommended this book. You are so special and we can't stop praising God for spiritual family like you!

Foreword

Opening your mind to knowledge leads to *understanding* and *wisdom*.

Dr Francois Engelbrecht's book offers a fresh look at prophecy. While really thorough, it is an easy read and provides many helpful insights to be used in prophecy.

I have known Dr Francois for about 18 years and what I have always loved about him, is his heart for people. He desires to raise leaders and give them an opportunity to discover their God given gift, put it into practise and grow in their calling.

Calling yourself a prophet carries a big responsibility. People will respect your words and so what you say should not be taken lightly. On the other hand, prophecy can give so much encouragement and can change a person's life by shining a light on their destiny.

In 2 Peter 1:19-21 (*Amplified Bible*), Peter says "We have the prophetic word made firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day breaks through the gloom and the morning star rises in your hearts.

First you must understand that this, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of any personal or private interpretation.

For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it, but men spoke from God who were moved by the Holy Spirit."

It is so important to understand what Paul meant when he wrote that all men can prophesy. He was telling us to encourage each other and share with each other words of wisdom. This falls into the category of prophecy.

The person with a gift of prophecy will speak things into being and change the atmosphere. God will cause things to line up.

A prophet can speak over a person's life even when at the time it might not be fully understood. Years later when it comes into

being, the person that gave the word might even be forgotten, which is the way it should be so that God gets the glory.

We are living in a time of fear and doubt. A prophetic word spoken correctly and in season will provide a much needed light to a person's path, bringing both hope and encouragement.

As you read and study this book, I challenge you to equip yourself to be the voice that God intended you to be.

Prophet Jean Keys.
Durbanville, South Africa.

How to PROPHECY

EXCITING ACTIVATION OF YOUR PROPHETIC GIFT!

INTRODUCTION

*The best book is not the one that informs merely,
but one that stirs the reader up to inform himself.*

AW Tozer

What we experience in the world around us determines to a great extent who we are and what we do. Our inherited DNA, combined with what we experience from conception until the age of about 7 years, has an enormous influence on who we will become in adult life. And the majority of our experiences come through our senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

Like this physical realm in which we live each day, there is an unseen spiritual realm in which God, His angels, and the demonic forces operate. Many people believe that this spiritual realm exists, but they never experience anything of that realm in their lives. In this book you will be able to experience more of this amazing realm of the Spirit.

Since the time of creation, God wanted fellowship with the humans He created. Before sin came into the world, Adam and Eve walked and communicated with God every day. One of the purposes of Jesus' coming to earth was to restore this communication between God and man. This is why the curtain of the most holy place was torn when Jesus died on the cross. He made it possible for us to have continual access to God. **Hebrews 4:16** invites us to come boldly to the throne of God any time we want. This book wants to train you how to clearly hear from God and how to activate what you hear, see, and perceive in the form of prophetic words.

There is an exciting "world" out there that is waiting to be explored. **Genesis 1:1** says: **In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.** Did you see that? Not one heaven, but heavens to be explored. The spiritual realm is actually just as real as the physical realm in which we live, and God gave us spiritual senses so that we can experience spiritual sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. These are the five spiritual senses that need to be recognized and trained. Do you desire to step into open heavens? This book wants to guide you into this exciting journey!

I pray that you will believe and embrace that the prophetic gift is also for you personally. Desire more of it (**1 Corinthians 14**). Dream about giving other people powerful, accurate prophetic encouragement. Say

to yourself: I was created for this! I was made to prophesy!

But how do we access this spiritual world? Just like a human baby we need the right spiritual DNA received through salvation in Jesus Christ. We also need the best environment to develop optimally as a spiritual being. We need an environment filled with the Word of God and with His Holy Spirit to guide us to become mature spiritual beings.

God the Holy Spirit wants to open up the revelatory realm to us in order to help us access it. He wants to reveal to us in the spirit what we cannot experience with our physical senses. The prophetic forms part of this revelatory realm that God wants to open up for every one of His children. Just like exercising our physical body in a gymnasium, we constantly need to exercise our spiritual senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch so that we can use them effectively. **Hebrews 5:14** says: **But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, even those who because of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**

Let us explore together what prophecy is, from a Biblical point of view. What does the Bible say about the function of the prophetic gift, about discernment, about false prophets, and the role a prophetic word should play in our lives?

Are you ready to taste and experience more of this wonderful world of the prophetic in your own life? ***This is not just another book on the prophetic. There are questions, exercises, and activations throughout this book to assist you in flexing your own prophetic muscles even more.*** May these simple tools unlock hidden treasures and secret mysteries that might have eluded our perception until now. If you are not using this book as a prophetic course with a group of other people, I want to encourage you to invite a few close friends to join you for the exercises and activations.

All of us want to be like the sons of Issachar in **1 Chronicles 12:32** who had understanding of the times they lived in and knew what Israel ought to do. We would also like to be like the noble Bereans in **Acts 17:11** who received the Word of God with openness and searched the Scriptures daily. Even when Scripture strongly convicts us of a certain viewpoint, we should always be open to a course of correction and the progressive revelation by the Spirit of truth.

Grab your Bible, a notepad, and a friend and be ready for the prophetic adventure of a lifetime!

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☛ *Are you ready to move beyond the borders of limitation, fear, lack of knowledge and restraint? Are you ready to step over from the known into the unknown, encountering God? Then this book is for you!* ☛

Chapter 1

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

The purpose of the prophetic and of hearing God's voice is not only to find out what God wants to do but to reconnect people with who God is. – Bob Hazlett.

More than a quarter of the Bible is prophecy – warnings, promises, and predictions. That is more than 8000 of the 31000 verses in the Bible.

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, gives a simple definition of prophecy: ***But he who prophesies speaks to men for building up, and exhortation, and comfort.***
1 Corinthians 14:3.

Prophesying is speaking in order to strengthen, encourage, and comfort others – it is speaking Divine encouragement. It is to receive from God and speak it to men. And all of us can prophecy – this book wants to show you how.

The goal of prophecy is to connect people to the empowering nature of God so that they can become like Him and display His marvelous nature to all on earth! (Shawn Bolz) His eternal plan is for us to see what He sees, which enables us to love like He loves. Prophecy is about relationship: relationship with God and a love relationship with those people over whom you

are prophesying. Revelation empowers you to see everyone around you as winners, as worthy. Most people are unaware of the greatness that God has put inside of them. True prophetic ministry looks for the gold in the midst of the dirt in people's lives. This can only be done from a place and a heart of love. Prophecy is to see people at the end of the race with a trophy in the hand and a gold medal around the neck.

To prophesy you have to step into open heavens. You have to go beyond the veil and enter the world of the supernatural. That is why prophetic people are firstly people of God's presence. Without His presence, we are more likely to speak from our mind than from His heart. We have to know Him in order to sound like Him. And when we know God's heart, we will also know His love. True prophecy is to speak God's heart because we are compelled by His love for that person. **And if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose) ... but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing.** (1 Corinthians 13:2) *Amplified.*

One of the foundations for the prophetic is God's love for His people. When I seek to love people and to serve them, it becomes so much easier to hear God's heart for them.

Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It does not belong to people. Anyone can be used in the gift of prophecy provided he is a born-again believer, filled with the Holy Spirit, and open to move in the supernatural.

Although all Spirit-filled Christians can prophesy, it does not make everyone who prophesies a prophet. Prophetic anointing contains various levels and stages, beginning with the basics of prophecy: encouragement, edification, and comfort.

Did you ever have a secret that was so exciting that you just had to share it? Like when you have a special gift to give to a loved one? God has lots of exciting gifts to give us and He loves to share His secrets with us. In **Amos 3:7** we read: **Surely the Lord God will do nothing without revealing His secret to His**

servants the prophets.

God wants to reveal His secrets to those who have the right heart. They must be people whom God can trust with his words and they must be willing to serve others. He wants to reveal His secrets to His us as His servants. If we want to be leaders in Gods Kingdom, we must have a servant attitude. Servants clean up the messes; they don't create or expose them. That is why prophecy does not primarily point out problems, rather it points to the potential in a person or situation. It finds the treasure in a sinner's life.

Many times when God shows us the challenge in a person or in a situation, He does it so that we can call out the gold – the opposite that is not necessarily seen by the person. When we call out the positive, it has creative power to bring about the positive, and it brings hope into the person's life. This is the beauty of prophecy.

Prophecy is God communicating His will by word (sometimes by action) through chosen people, and all of us are a part of that chosen generation (**1 Peter 2:9**). Shawn Bolz was only 6 years old when he was sitting on his mother's lap while they were praying for a lady with severe back pain. His mother turned to him and asked if the Lord was showing him something regarding this lady. He actually heard something and he asked: "Is you're back hurting because of a car accident?" "Yes!" She was shocked that he was participating and got a word of knowledge from the Lord. "God wants to make your back the way it was before the accident" he said. With that he got off his mother's lap, put both of his hands on this woman and prayed for her with his parents. Together they watched this woman become completely restored.

Prophecy includes whatever God wants to communicate about the past, present, or future. In this sense the whole Bible can be seen as a prophetic Book, because it is the word of God supernaturally given to His chosen people to write it down for all people to see, hear, and understand God's will and plan.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 says: All Scripture is God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work.

2 Peter 1:21 For prophecy was not born at any time by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke being borne along by the Holy Spirit.

This does not mean that when we speak forth the Word of God it is prophecy. To speak out the *Logos* word of God (the written word of God in the Bible) will rather fit in under the categories of preaching or teaching of the Word.

True prophecy will always confirm the Word and will never contradict the Bible. This is why it is vital for all prophetic people to eat and drink the Word of God (the Bible) daily, so that they will be guided by His Spirit and filled with His written Word. Then God will enlighten the *Logos* (written) Word with *Rhema* Word – a prophetic word for the current season which is in agreement with the *Logos* Word of God.

Prophecy is very powerful. In the beginning God created through words. He spoke (the Hebrew word is *bara*) and the universe was formed. God created man in His image and when we speak a prophetic word we received from God, it has the same creative power, because it is still a word from God spoken through us.

Confirmation is a vital part of Biblical prophecy. When you hear the voice of God as a part of your daily walk with Him, and somebody gives you a prophetic word, most often it will be a confirmation of what God has already told you. It can also be a confirmation of a prophecy you have already received. God speaks with clarity and never contradicts himself. This is why it is good to look for confirmation when you are not a hundred percent sure if you heard correctly.

A few years ago God clearly spoke to me about a change in season and that we are going to move to another suburb. On a

Wednesday we visited some of our prophetic friends in a nearby town and they confirmed the word without knowing anything of what God told us. The next day I was at a breakfast meeting 60 kilometers from there and a prophetic lady, who did not know me, spoke the same words as the person the previous day. Two confirmations in two days! Within a few months the move happened.

If a child should ask you: What is prophecy? What would you say?

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What is the main purpose of prophecy?

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WHAT IS A PROPHET?

All Christians should flow in prophecy. But **Ephesians 4:11-16** tells us that some are called to be Prophets in the 5-fold ministry of God. One of the main functions of 5-fold ministers is to equip and empower believers to become mature in Christ.

To be a prophet of God there must be a specific calling from God (**Jeremiah 1:5**) and the recognition of that calling from mature leaders in the Kingdom of God. When a person is a prophet, they themselves are a gift to the body of Christ.

Most of the time it also requires considerable training, experience, and development over many years, to develop into a mature prophet – depending on the training, discipling, and mentoring received. There may be exceptions to this rule according to the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon somebody's life.

In Deuteronomy 18:18 we read: I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brothers, one like you, and will put My words in His mouth. And He shall speak to them all that I shall command Him.

Prophets in the Bible were listeners. Priests were talkers – they spoke to the people and took the requests of the people to God. Prophets first listened to God and then took His words to the people.

Isaiah 6:8 says: And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me!

Jeremiah 1:9-10 And the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, Behold, I have put My Words in your mouth. Behold! I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Prophets have a passion to see people reach their purpose and destiny in life. We love to see people move into the future that God intends for them. An Apostle is passionate about transformation. A Pastor is passionate for community. An Evangelist is passionate about souls being saved. A Teacher is passionate for maturity. A Prophet is passionate about destiny and to see people reach it. What are you passionate about? The moment you find your passion, it will lead you to identity and it can release great authority in your life.

I get excited to hear how people's lives were changed because of a prophetic word. Years ago I spoke into the life of one of my spiritual sons in Kenya. I called forth the Apostolic gold that was in this Pastor's life and added other things to it. Today he is an emerging leader in the church in Kenya who oversees congregations he planted. His ministry is growing and he loves every minute of it.

Prophets in the Bible came from diverse backgrounds. The only thing they had in common was the fact that God handpicked

them. There was a man that married a prostitute, Hosea (**Hosea 1:2**); a woman, Deborah (**Judges 4:4**); a farmer, Amos (**Amos 7:14**); a boy, Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 1:6**); and many more.

From Genesis to Revelation there are roughly 40 prophets over a span of 2000 years. Though the Bible doesn't name more than 40 prophets, it tells about groups of prophets that showed up at different times in Israel's history.

1 Samuel 10:5 And it will happen to you when you come there to the city, even you shall meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a harp and a tambourine and a flute and a lyre before them. And they shall prophesy.

Did you ever wonder why some prophets are more effective and more accurate than others? I believe one of the reasons is passion. If you love something, you will do it more often and if you do it more often, you will become good at it. Malcolm Gladwell says that 10,000 hours of practice is required to achieve the level of mastery that is associated to be a world-class expert in anything. And **Hebrews 5:14** says: **But solid food is for full-grown men, for those whose senses and mental faculties are trained by practice to discriminate and distinguish between what is morally good and noble, and what is evil.**

What is the difference between the gift of prophecy and being a prophet?

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FORETELLING OR FORTH-TELLING

Sometimes people want to confine prophecy to the future, but that is not true. The prophet is a forth-teller as well as a foreteller.

Foretelling is not the same as fortune-telling, palm-reading, star-

gazing, crystal-gazing, or zodiac sign reading. According to the Scriptures, foretelling is to *tell ahead of time*, the things that are on the mind of God concerning a person, people, places, or events. According to **Isaiah 46:10** God always knows the end from the beginning and He wants to share those secrets with His children.

The Bible is the only Book in history that is filled with foretelling (prophecies about the future); all of which have been accurately fulfilled. Prophecies about children to be born, land to be inherited, famine that will take place, the birth of Jesus, etc. were all fulfilled. There is only a small percentage of Biblical prophecy for the end times that is still to be fulfilled in time to come.

Forth-telling on the other hand, means to speak forth, to tell what is on the mind of God. It declares events in the mind of God regarding a person, people, places, or events. It can be facts about the present or taking facts like the written Word of God as a launching pad to proclaim God's heart for the present situation. By speaking forth God's mind the future is caused. An example of forth-telling is found in **Ezekiel 37**. When God instructed the prophet Ezekiel to prophecy to the dead bones, they became an exceedingly great army. Ezekiel did not just *tell* the future he *caused* the future to happen.

Recently at a prophetic conference, a young lady from Taiwan who knows nothing about my life was prophesying over me and part of what she said was something like this: You have a heart for a certain group of people for whom others don't necessarily have a heart. This is God's plan for your life. I see you training missionaries and that is exactly what God wants you to do. The fact that she confirmed that what I am doing is God's plan for this period in my life, is a kind of forth-telling and I was in tears because it touched a nerve that only God knows about.

SEER AND SPOKESMAN

The word "prophet" in its various forms is used over 300 times in the Old Testament and 100 times in the New Testament. A prophet is a divinely chosen spokesman for God who, having

received the message from God, proclaims it to the people in oral, visual, or written form.

In **1 Samuel 9:9** the prophet in Israel was called *ro'eh* or *ra'ah* which means the one who perceives that which does not lie in the realm of natural sight or hearing – the seer. It focuses on the experience by means of which the prophet was made to 'see' the message. Another word for the same category is *hozeh* – one who sees supernaturally. (**2 Samuel 24:11**) The seer emphasizes visions and the revelatory gifts, and often gets information ahead of time and tells it later.

The seer prophet not only sees; he also discerns, perceives, and envisions. The word *ra'ah* is also used in **Gen 1:4** when God saw the light. He not only looked at the light, but He also discerned, envisioned, and perceived it for what it was.

When I look at the engine of my car, I see metal, liquid and wires. When a mechanic looks at it, he sees how every part of that engine should function and how it works together. That is to *ra'ah*.

Later, the Hebrew seer was more commonly called *nabi* (pronounced *naw-bee*) which means to call or announce (**1 Samuel 9:9**). The essential idea of the word *nabi* is that of an authorized spokesman.

When we look at the word *nabi* in the Old Testament, we can highlight at least three Scriptures that will help us understand the meaning of *nabi* better.

- In **Exodus 7:1** God appoints Aaron as *nabi* to Moses – his authorized spokesman – to speak on behalf of a superior.
- In **Numbers 12:6** *nabi* means somebody to whom God speaks in dreams and visions so that they may speak it to the people.
- **Deuteronomy 18:18** says: I will raise them up a

Prophet (*nabi*) from among their brothers, one like you, and will put My words in His mouth. And He shall speak to them all that I shall command Him.

This is the first place where we see the *office of the prophet* being born.

Both the seer prophet and the nabi prophet receive the message directly from God and one is not more important than the other. They are only different ways of receiving from God. Both seer and nabi must be willing to be an instrument in God's hands to communicate God's 'now' word to His people.

The Old Testament prophets of God acted in the following three areas:

- **Firstly, the prophets interpreted the Mosaic Law** to the people of God. They had to admonish, reprove, denounce sin, threaten with judgment (**Jonah 3:4**), call to repentance, and bring the forgiveness of God to His people. This task of the prophets took more of their time than any other area of their work.
- **Secondly, prophets foretold the coming judgment, deliverance, and all the events relating to the coming of Jesus Christ to this world.** The prediction given by a true prophet would be visibly fulfilled. If the words of a prophet did not come true, he would be seen as a false prophet. (**Deuteronomy 18:20-22**).
- **Thirdly, prophets were watchmen over the people of Israel.** Ezekiel stood as a watchman on the walls of the city to sound the trumpet against any religious apostasy. (**Ezekiel 3:17**).

Would you say that you are flowing more in the seer prophetic or in the hearing prophetic realm, or both? Why do you say that?

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HOW PROPHECY IS RECEIVED

A variety of words in the Bible describe something about **how the prophetic may come to a person**:

1. **Nataph**: In Hebrew it means “to let drop like rain”. It comes little by little and is accumulated in our buckets over a period of time.
2. **Massa**: It is also a Hebrew word that is used to refer to “the hand of the Lord”. When God’s hand comes upon us, it imparts something to us and when His hand lifts, the impartation remains.
3. **Nabi**: This Hebrew word means “to bubble up, boil forth, to pour forth words under Divine inspiration.”
4. **Propheteia**: This Greek word means “to speak forth the mind and council of God.”

All of these words indicate that prophecy is something supernatural that comes from God in different ways to different people. The bottom line remains the same: The prophets are God’s mouthpiece, speaking His message to His people.

PROPHETIC PROCESS

The prophetic is meant to be a Divine dialogue with the Holy Spirit. – Dan McCollam.

Every prophetic word is comprised of at least three different components: revelation, interpretation, and application. Although each of these as a separate ingredient may be a prophetic word in itself, all three blend together to form a prophetic word.

1. **Revelation:** Revelation is information that we receive from God without us having any prior understanding of it. It is knowledge or information we could not have known unless God revealed it to us. This revelation can come to us in a variety of forms and on different levels.

Revelation can come as a dream, a vision, an impression, or a knowing; it is something that you see, hear, or receive from God. Many times you cannot understand it without an interpretation. Are you ready for more prophetic revelation from God than ever before?

2. **Interpretation:** This is the understanding that God gives regarding the message we received. It is the answer God gives to the question: What is God Saying? Or: What does this mean?

Inexperienced people of God, who receive a prophetic message from God, must be careful not to give interpretations they think are applicable. They then move in the flesh and not in the Spirit. Many true prophetic messages from God fall on the ground and hurt people because prophetic people did not listen to God alone for interpretation.

All of us, but especially prophetic people, should at all times follow the example of Jesus Christ our Lord who did nothing that He did not see the Father do and spoke nothing that He did not hear from the Father.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself but what He sees the Father do. For whatever things He does these also the Son does likewise.

John 12:50 Therefore whatever I speak, even as the Father said to Me, so I speak.

A prophetic person does not blurt out every message he/she receives from God. Sometimes we have to wait for God's

timing to deliver the message. If a prophetic word is given at the wrong time, it may lose the impact God intended it to have. Other times God will just show you something so that you can pray for that person instead of delivering the prophetic message.

- 3. Application:** This is the understanding of how we implement or utilize the revelation and interpretation we received. It is the “What do we do with this?” part of the prophecy. Many times we do not have to apply what we received, because it is left to the person receiving the word from God to hear from Him what he or she is supposed to do with it.

In the beginning of my prophetic journey I attended a prophetic conference. We had to prophesy over somebody next to us. A lady from a coastal area in South Africa stood next to me. All I heard the Lord say was: “Tell her that I love her dearly.” I thought: Lord, that is not a prophetic word – anybody can tell a person that You love her. The next moment the Lord showed me a picture of a long silver fish. Immediately I thought: God wants her to be a fisher of men. But I stayed obedient and just told her what I heard and what I saw. She immediately burst into tears as God touched her through His prophetic word.

When I asked her about it she said, “My dad loved me dearly. When I was a small girl he would sometimes take me with him on a boat to go fishing. We loved being together in that way.

One day we caught a long silver fish and afterwards they took a photo of me and my dad holding the silver fish. Soon after that he passed away. It was heartbreaking for me to lose someone who loved me so much. When you told me that God loved me dearly and you gave me the word about the long silver fish, I immediately knew God really meant it when He said He loved me. He reminded me of the love my dad had for me”.

I was so astounded about what just took place that I never ever want to interpret more than what God shows me or tells me.

Where do you think is the biggest challenge in the three phases of the prophetic process? Revelation; Interpretation; or Application? Why do you say so?

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What can you do to make sure that you deliver in an accurate way, what God has told you?

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Ask God for a prophetic word, picture, or vision for somebody. When you receive it, write down what is revelation, what is interpretation, and what is application in that word for the person.

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TEN BENIFITS OF PROPHECY

We should tirelessly encourage prophecy in our churches and disciple people to flow in it. It is too powerful a gift to ignore or treat poorly. It can accomplish a number of marvelous purposes:

1. Prophecy restores dignity and self-respect.

Wounds, getting hurt and emotional trauma, are part of our everyday life – both before and after salvation. However, we serve a God who is committed to our physical, emotional, and mental healing. He sees us very differently than we see ourselves: **The precious sons of Zion are weighed against pure gold. (Lamentations 4:2).**

When the angel of the Lord visited Gideon in **Judges 6**, he called out the hidden treasure in Gideon: “**The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!**” As humans we would think of him as a coward down there in the winepress, but God looked beyond his circumstances and started renewing his self-image. That scared young man pulled down a village stronghold and turned the people back to God, the very next day. Prophecy declares the beauty in us as God sees it and prophesy releases destiny.

In **Revelations 19** John saw the Bride of Christ in absolute perfection, ready for the wedding day; fully prepared and ready to marry Jesus. Prophecy is to help people see that they are already part of the Bride and totally worthy of it, because Jesus already paid the price for them.

Shawn was on his way to his favorite coffee shop when he saw a woman outside the shop. She was in tatters. She was crying in a whisper: “Please, I’m hungry ... please help me ... anything ... I just need food.” Everybody just walked by. In the minds of the people, she belonged there, because she had been on the streets for such a long time. She was crumpled in a ball on the ground, weeping.

Shawn walked past her and into the shop. He bought two coffees and two breakfast sandwiches and brought hands full of food to her. He said to her: “I am Shawn. What’s your name?” and handed her the bag and the coffee. She looked at him and stood up. “For me?” She took the bags and hugged Shawn – it was a real hug. He saw *her* as a person! And then he heard 4 words from the Holy Spirit and he said to her: “You are not invisible.” She broke down, because that was exactly how she felt. She cried for a while and Shawn again hugged her deeply. She looked into his eyes and said: “Thank you, no one has been kind to me for about a year!”

Since that day this woman and Shawn have had deep conversations on the street – conversations initiated by her. She is getting closer to knowing Jesus. And it started

when somebody gave her more than a word and showed her more of her eternal value.

Are you willing to focus on the positive and prophetically call out gold in people?

2. Prophecy edifies, encourages and comforts the church

In **1 Corinthians 14:3** the Apostle Paul wrote: **But he who prophesies speaks to men for building up, and exhortation, and comfort.** According to this standard, prophecy should not leave people feeling confused, degraded, or condemned. It should not make people feel inferior or intimidated. The word edification means: building up, strengthening, or improving. Prophecy should strengthen the relationship between God and His people.

People need and appreciate encouragement, even if they are not having a bad day. Who says you can't make a good day better!

Are you willing to be an instrument in God's hands to edify, encourage and comfort people?

3. Prophecy can bring correction and warning

In Biblical times, God often used His prophets to bring words of correction and warning. Some think this was only done in the Old Testament, but it is not true. Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees and He warned Israel to return to God. Peter warned Simon in **Acts 8:20-22**. **But Peter said to him, May your silver perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.**

In **Revelations 2 and 3**, the letters written to the seven churches are full of prophetic warnings.

The way a correction or warning is presented is of fundamental importance. Prophets must bring good news, even if that news is to repent. We must overflow with love and compassion for people every time we speak a prophetic word to someone. They must have a positive experience even when it is a strong word of correction or warning.

Most of the times when God shows me something that is happening in a person's life, I will ask God what I must say. And most of the time God will show me the opposite of the negative to prophesy. He shows me the gold already in them and I just have to call it out.

If God e.g. shows me strife in someone's marriage relationship, I will not speak that out publically and embarrass them in front of others. I will ask God, and rather say something like: *God has such a special plan for your marriage. He wants you to experience more love, happiness, and fulfillment than you ever can imagine! Just make more time to communicate and enjoy one another. God wants to use your marriage relationship to be an example of what it means to be happily married.* They will immediately perceive that God has revealed to me what is really happening in their marriage, but also know that God wants to turn the situation around for the better.

Are you willing to bring words of correction in such a loving way that people will rejoice in what they hear from God?

4. Prophecy can provide direction and enhance vision

Where there is no vision people perish (**Proverbs 29:18**). God may use someone to speak a prophetic word that will bring direction, purpose, and vision to another person or to a group. Prophecy, at a time like this, may bring dynamic

insight into situations not made clear in Scripture. Scripture provides principles and an overall picture, but not always the method. The Bible gives strategy but the prophetic can add revealed tactics from God.

In **2 Chronicles 20** we see a powerful example of the power of prophecy. When an overwhelming crowd of enemies came against Israel, they did what the Word taught them to do – they gathered together to seek the face of the Lord. Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and he prophesied the heart of God for that moment: **2 Chronicles 20:15-17** **And he said, Listen, all Judah, and you people of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat! So says the Lord to you, Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz. And you shall find them at the end of the valley, before the wilderness of Jeruel. You shall not fight in this battle.**

Set yourselves and stand, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not fear nor be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord will be with you.

Everything happened just like the prophet said. When the worship band of Israel began to play, their enemies turned against each other and started killing one another. It took Israel three days to collect the gold, silver, and spoil from the dead bodies of the enemy.

Dare to ask God for prophetic direction, vision and strategy. And be bold enough to speak a prophetic word about it when God reveals it.

5. Prophecy opens up the teaching of the Word and confirms preaching.

In **1 Corinthians 13:2** Paul writes: **And though I have**

prophecies, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge ...

Mysteries in the Bible are secrets, hidden and concealed by God for a certain time, until God reveals it. God may give you a flash of prophetic revelation while reading the Bible. We have to pray for prophetic revelation every day to better understand what God says in the Bible. The prayer of Paul for the congregation of Ephesus is: **that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him (Ephesians 1:17).**

When these revelations are opened up to us by the Holy Spirit, we should be like the noble Bereans who **“received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.” (Acts 17:11)** There is no breakthrough without follow through. Prophetic insight should drive us to the Bible with a hunger for more revelatory knowledge from God’s precious Word.

Prophecy can confirm the preaching of the Word, both before and after the preaching. A word or a song during worship may tie in perfectly with the sermon. A testimony after the preaching may confirm what God has said through the preaching.

Are you open for the prophetic to flow in your worship services and to confirm the Word?

6. Prophecy can release the church into new practices

God can give us prophetic insight into a new area on which He wants us to focus. This happened in **Acts 10** when Peter led Cornelius and his whole Gentile household to Christ. Peter – although reborn – was in an age-old tradition where the Jews did not allow Gentiles to become part of the household of God. Three times the Lord had to

show him a prophetic vision on the rooftop to prepare him for the new direction in his calling.

Only when in obedience, he crossed the threshold of the gentile home of Cornelius, and saw the Holy Spirit bringing the lost into the Kingdom of God, did he fully understand the prophetic revelation of the visions. **Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Truly I see that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he who fears Him and works righteousness is accepted with Him.**

Prophecy can open us up to new experiences of God. God can lead a church into a new direction of saving the lost, or prophecy can bring a new way of growing His church through house churches, etc. We just have to be open to hear His voice and to be obedient; He will do the rest of His marvelous work supernaturally through His Spirit.

Years ago God took me out of a very traditional setting and prophetically gave me a blueprint of a ministry as a prophetic movement. This took us into a whole new direction: Powerhouse International is a ministry of ministries with a strong emphasis on the supernatural, healing, and the prophetic, undergirded by a strong passion for the presence of God. An integral part of this Kingdom movement are the Powerhouses that meet on a weekly basis. This builds our family as living stones of the Master Builder, empowering every saint to walk in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit, and gives room to exercise the prophetic gift.

Let us open our hearts to God for new prophetic insights He might want to give us regarding our future.

7. Prophecy provides insight into counseling situations

A large part of the church still has a crippled mindset

instead of a warrior mindset. This can be changed by introducing the prophetic to the counseling. The prophetic can transform endless counseling sessions focusing on broken-heartedness, into break-through sessions where people experience the new freedom in Christ.

The prophetic can get to the heart of the problem in an astonishing way. When the Pharisees and the Sadducees came to Jesus, He immediately addressed the root: **Matthew 3:10 And now also, the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bring forth good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.**

Prophecy can save a lot of time in counseling sessions. A prophetic word at the right time can save months of work to get to the root of the problem. A prophetic word at the right time can strip people from lies and deception so that they can no longer hide. The enemy will be exposed and brought into the light. A word of wisdom flowing out of this prophetic revealing of the root brings quick and accelerated breakthroughs from God.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, when I sit with Your precious people, will you please give me words of knowledge, prophetic insight, and words of wisdom that will bring accelerated breakthroughs into their situations? In Jesus' name we ask and receive this. Amen.*

8. Prophecy can provide evangelistic breakthroughs

Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 14:24-25** **But if all prophecy, and some unbeliever or one not instructed comes, he is convicted by all, he is judged by all. And so the secrets of his heart become revealed. And so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.** Is this not something that every church should aspire to?

Prophetic evangelism is a new and growing phenomenon in

the church today. Some of the members of our ministry reach out into the malls and in underprivileged areas on a regular basis. They do treasure hunting by following the prophetic voice of God for specific people at that time. They hear a prophetic word about somebody, find that person, and start sharing the message of Christ in love. It is amazing to see how God can touch unbelievers and turn them around through an accurate prophetic word. Prophecy can uncover past issues and address present situations in a supernatural way. Many times healing and salvation will take place because of the supernatural words of knowledge given by God to the team for that person.

Are you willing to walk under open heavens, receive prophetic words for people around you, and bring them into the Kingdom of God when they are touched by God through your words?

9. Prophecy provides an agenda for prayer

Prayer, in its purest form, is to find out what God wants to do and then ask Him in prayer to do it. **Matt 7:7 Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.**

We should have a lifestyle of walking in God's presence every moment of every day and listening to His voice. When we prophetically hear God's voice in prayer, we will know how to pray effectively because we will ask according to God's will.

Many years ago a well-known prophet, who did not know me at all, prophesied something like this over me: "If you seek God's face in your prayer closet, you will walk with God in a way many other people only dream of." Until this day those words inspire me to really seek God's face and experience the more that was prophesied.

Prayer: *Father, please help me to always hear your voice prophetically in prayer, so that your perfect will can be done in my life.*

10. Prophecy is vital in spiritual warfare

We need prophetic insight from God to know how to fight the enemy. In **1 Timothy 1:18** Paul writes to his spiritual son, Timothy: **This charge I commit to you, my son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before about you, in order that you might war a good warfare by them.**

Joshua listened to a prophetic word from God - how and when to fight the enemy – and then he responded to the prophetic word in faith: **Joshua 6:1-5 And Jericho was completely shut up because of the sons of Israel. None went out and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, See, I have given Jericho into your hand, and its king, and the mighty men of war. And you shall go around the city, all the men of war. Go around the city once. So you shall do for six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of ram's horns in front of the ark.**

And the seventh day you shall go around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall be when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout. And the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up, each man straight before him.

What a victory because Joshua followed the prophetic word of God!

The heavens are open above you. Just listen to God's strategy and be victorious because you followed His prophetic instructions.

What would you say are the three most important benefits of prophecy for you? Why do you say that?

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PROPHECY GLORIFIES GOD

When the true prophet speaks, it will never be about the person that brings the message. God will always get the glory.

Prophetic people, when under pressure, may sometimes try to make something happen. That is not from God! If you try to ‘fake it until you make it’, it will not have any lasting effect. If it is about the prophet, it may be spectacular with lots of hype and showmanship rhetoric, but then we only encounter man instead of engaging with the living God. With God, the supernatural is sometimes evident only after He has moved, as when He parted the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:21**). If you can decrease, God will increase in you.

A very special prophetic lady once ministered to a small group of us. She was so humble and full of love and compassion and you could feel the *kabod* (the heaviness of the anointing of God) continuously while she ministered. God was powerfully moving through her, touching our lives. Afterwards, there was only the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, while lives were changed and mysteries cleared up. All of us were edified and lifted up in the Spirit.

The question is: Can God really trust you to do with a prophetic message exactly as the Spirit of God shows you? I believe the more God can trust you to do and say only as He directs, the

more prophetic insights He will give you.

Amos 3:7 For the Lord God will do nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

The purpose of both the speaking prophet and the seer prophet is to reveal the glorious wonders of Jesus Christ, God's purpose in a generation, God's purpose in eternity, and the wonderful presence of God.

All of us may desire to prophesy. **1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity and desire spiritual things, but rather that you may prophecy.**

All of us may pray for our eyes to be opened to see in the spiritual realm. **Ephesians 1:17-18 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...**

In **2 Kings 6:17** the prophet Elisha prayed: **And Elisha prayed and said, I pray You, Lord, open his eyes so that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**

God wants to move in a powerful prophetic way through your life. ***Are you ready for more of His glory to shine through you?*** There is so much more for those who are willing to be instruments in His hands.

REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:

CALLING OUT GOLD

If God shows you something with which a person is struggling, how will you call out the gold in that person?

Chapter 2

KEYS TO UNLOCK BIBLICAL PROPHECY

***Prophecy is in our DNA because we are made
in the image of God.***

Many people around the world desire more of the prophetic and the supernatural in their lives. They desperately look for keys that will unlock the revelatory realm of heaven to them. All the keys to understanding Biblical prophecy and flowing in the prophetic are available to us in Scripture. However, even when we know what the keys to unlock Biblical prophecy are, we must remember that there is no breakthrough without follow through. The following are some of the keys that can help you to unlock more of the prophetic realm over your life.

1. DESIRE PROPHECY

One of the most common ways that God leads us is through our desires. Some people believe that God will always give you the opposite of what you want. Although there are times that God will not give you what you want immediately because He knows it will not be the best for you at that stage, the Bible teaches us that God wants to give us the desires of our hearts. **Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,**

and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

It is not enough to believe that the prophetic gift is for today; believe that the prophetic gift and grace is for you personally! Desire it. Dream about giving others powerful, accurate prophetic encouragement. Say to yourself: "I was created for this. This is my gift. I was made to prophesy."

If we are born again and living a Spirit-filled life and we are daily saturated in the Word of God, the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit lives in us and guides us. **Romans 8:9 You are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you.**

When God the Holy Spirit lives inside of you and guides your thoughts and desires, you can rest assured that when you desire spiritual things with a pure heart (to glorify God and not for your own advantage), those desires will mostly be God's desires for you too. It does not matter if your desire is to preach, or to flow in healing, or to prophesy.

Even more important is the fact that God encourages us in the Bible to desire to prophesy. In **1 Corinthians 14:1** the Bible teaches us: **Follow after charity and desire spiritual things, but rather that you may prophesy.** Desire earnestly. Look for it. Expect it. Want it.

For 21 years I was in a denomination where we did not believe in many of the things happening in the supernatural realm. While ministering in another city, God baptized me in the Holy Spirit. I did not have any idea what was happening – I only understood later what had happened.

And although I did not have a clue what the prophetic meant, from the moment the Holy Spirit baptized me, I had this burning desire in my heart to grow in the prophetic. And after all these years, the desire is still burning for more of the prophetic every day.

This desire to prophesy is in alignment with the prophecy of **Joel 2** that was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost: **Acts 2:17-18** **And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams. Yes, and on My menservants also and on My maidservants in those days I will pour out of My Spirit, and they shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels and predicting future events pertaining especially to God's kingdom].** (*Amplified*).

The desire to prophesy along with some prophetic experiences should confirm to you that God has given you a gift in the prophetic. An example would be that you may know things other people do not know without being told. You may hear a still small voice inside you or experience visions. You may even dream dreams and understand completely what God is telling you in those dreams. Those are all prophetic experiences that should stimulate you to pray and desire after more of the gift of prophecy.

***How are you activating your deep desire to flow more strongly in the prophetic?
(Ask; pray; Decree; Call out; Etc.)***

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2. WALK IN GOD'S PRESENCE

His presence is not upon us to be commandeered or directed by us. Instead, we are tools in his hand. If there is a dove resting on my shoulder in the natural and I

don't want it to fly away, how am I going to walk around this room? Every step will be with the dove in mind. Every movement I make will be to preserve what I value most. – Bill Johnson.

When Adam and Eve lived in Paradise before the fall, they lived in complete harmony with God. Directly after the fall, God walked in the garden at the cool of the day and they hid themselves from His presence (**Genesis 3:8**). The Hebrew word for presence is *paniym* and means: face (of God). Sin caused us not to see the face of God (His presence) any longer.

But deep inside of man, the yearning to see the face of God still lives on. The more we experience of the presence of God, the more we want to experience Him. Moses was in God's presence on the mountain for 40 days and as a result his face shone so brightly that he had to veil himself so that he did not scare the people.

Shortly after that, Moses prayed in **Exodus 33:18**: “**Show me Your glory**” (the Hebrew word for glory is *kabod* and it means heaviness). God answered that Moses cannot see His face (*paniym*) and still live. But He said that He would put him in the cleft of a rock and cover his face with His own hand so the he would not die while beholding God's face as He passed him by. Then God took away his hand after passing by, so that Moses could see the countenance or glory of God from behind. That was a life changing experience! Moses could never be the same after that!

This same Moses, who encountered God so many times, experienced His presence and saw His countenance, was called a prophet of God. God did not speak to him like He did to the other prophets – He spoke with Moses face to face.

Numbers 12:5-8 **And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both came forth.**

And He said, Hear now My words. If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known to him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream. Not so, My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. I will speak with him mouth to mouth, even clearly, and not in dark speeches. And he shall behold the likeness of God.

Deuteronomy 34:10 And never since has a prophet like Moses arisen in Israel, whom the Lord knew face to face.

Moses walked in the presence of God every day and just wanted more of God in his life. To such a man God entrusted His prophetic words. If we want to be entrusted with the prophetic words of God, we need to walk in His presence daily.

Developing a life in God's presence above all else is the only way to fulfill our God-given destinies. Keys to our callings are released when we spend time there.

– Heidi Baker.

One of the deepest yearnings of man still today is to live in the presence of God as before the fall. In **Psalms 27:4** David says: **One thing I have desired from the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of God, and to pray in His temple.** In the Old Testament the place where the people met God was usually the Temple, or the House of God.

Exodus 25:18-22 And you shall make two cherubs of gold; of beaten work you shall make them, in the two ends of the mercy-seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end. From the mercy-seat you shall make the cherubs, on the two ends of it. And the cherubs shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy-seat with their wings, and their faces each toward the other; toward the mercy-seat shall the cherubs' faces be. And you shall put the

mercy-seat above, upon the ark. And in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. And I will meet with you there, and I will talk with you from above the mercy-seat, from between the two cherubs on the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give you in commandment to the sons of Israel.

When David wanted to be in the house of the Lord every day of his life, he did not mean that he never wanted to be outside of the temple – it would be impossible to reign as king this way. He meant that he wanted to be in the presence of God every day of his life. The presence of God is the place where God speaks to him and where he can have fellowship with God.

In the same **Psalm 27:8** these amazing words are written: **You have said, Seek My face. My heart says to You, Your face (Your presence), Lord, will I seek, inquire for, and require. Amplified.**

It is God who first said to David: Seek My face. The only response David could have was: I will seek your face O Lord! We start to understand why God said that David was a man after His own heart; David was sold out to God. His only desire was to be in God's presence every moment of every day.

If that is your heart's desire, God will speak to you prophetically and use you to prophesy.

And we must never think that it is difficult to seek God's face. Because we live after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit is living inside His children. In **John 14-16** Jesus introduced us to the Holy Spirit as our Guide and Comforter. We can live in a relationship with Him and He will lead us to truth.

Many of the great men and women of God, through the ages, interacted with the Holy Spirit and knew Him as their best Friend. Kathryn Kuhlman also described Him as her best Friend and waited for His presence before she would start a

meeting – no matter how long that took.

When you ask the Holy Spirit to be your best Friend, the realm of the prophetic will open up more and more as your relationship with Him deepens. The Bible will be illuminated for you and your prayer life will deepen. You will learn to discern the voice of God so much easier than before and that will make the prophetic an easy lifestyle.

I was at a prophetic conference where we really focused on the presence of God. While waiting on Him, God gave me a vision: I saw the form of a throne with a very bright light shining from it. I could see a part of the armrests of the throne, but the light was too bright to distinguish anything else. Deep in my spirit I knew that God was showing me just a little bit of His glory on the throne. When I came out of this experience, I had a prophetic word for everyone at the conference. I delivered the words only to those for whom God released me. Then God said to me: If you seek My face as you did tonight, you will always have a word for everybody around you. These are words I will never forget.

How do you plan to practically walk deeper in God’s presence every day?

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3. THINK LIKE HEAVEN

Heaven was not intended as a “retirement home” for deceased believers but a place from which real life is lived.

– Bob Hazlett.

From the ground, the smallest hill can limit your line of sight.

But when you are perched high above the earth, even Mount Everest is no obstacle. When we rise above the natural landscape, it causes things to shift within us. Our perspective is changed. Likewise, when we rise in our spiritual thinking, our outlook is transformed, so that God's purposes may be fulfilled and His glory may be seen.

Think like heaven! This is what **Colossians 3:1-4** urges us to do: **If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Be mindful of things above, not on things on the earth.**

Ephesians 2:6 tells us that while we are still living in our bodies here on earth, we are simultaneously in the spirit sitting with Christ Jesus in heavenly places. Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father – the place of authority from where He rules the cosmos. When we realize that we are already 'there' in the spirit, we can live from the next level instead of toward it. From His eternal vantage point, hell's culture is already defeated.

How we perceive God sets the foundation of how we see ourselves and the world. He is a relational God who loves us and lives in us with His presence. He is a good Father who only wants the best for us. He does not see us according to our shortcomings and past mistakes. He sees us through the Blood of Jesus. This is our new creation reality that Paul speaks about in **2 Corinthians 5:17**. God created us to co-labor and co-create with Him – not through self-effort, but through entering into His rest and into His superabundant flow of provision for all we need. Then heaven becomes a place of communion between us and God – not only a retirement place for deceased believers.

You are what you think. Somebody once said: Show me your horizons and I will show you your life. What you think about most often will fill your horizons and eventually your thoughts will become deeds. When you keep on doing those deeds,

they become habits that will determine your lifestyle.

What is the relationship between thoughts, words, and habits? What we think leads to what we will say. What we say will lead to what we will do. And if we do it again, it may form a habit in our lives. This is true for good and for bad things in our lives! That is why it is so important to renew our minds daily by filling it with the Word of God! **(Romans 12:2)** Then we will start thinking like heaven and there will be no place left for negative or wrong thoughts.

If a negative thought comes into our minds, we must treat it the way the Bible teaches us. If you think: “I can’t do that!” or if a lustful thought enters your brain, **2 Corinthians 10:5** says: **Cast down the imaginations and every high thing that exalt itself against the knowledge of God, and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ!**

The habit of thinking positive leads to the habit of speaking life! **Proverbs 18:21** says: **Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they who indulge in it shall eat the fruit of it.**

Do we realize what power God has given us through the thoughts we think and the words we speak? Words reach into the spiritual realm and they create our future – good or bad! That’s why I often declare: I am changing my world, by changing my words, to the Word of God! Let us also regularly pray: **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be well pleasing unto You O God!** Let us change our reality by thinking, believing, and speaking in agreement with God!

It’s like your laptop! What you think, speak, and do is embedded on your hard drive! A computer can only show you things according to the programs installed. What is installed on your hard drive? It won’t help to just delete something negative popping up on the screen if it still remains in the laptop’s program. Let us start to reprogram our laptops today! Install the best program: The Word of God! Then we will start

thinking like heaven!

If you put aside time every day to read the Bible and to pray, your life will start to change and you will become more Christ-like. Most of the really anointed men and women of God spend at least two to three hours per day focusing on the things above. That ignites heavenly thinking.

The Ebola virus is a malicious disease that can kill in a matter of days. It is highly contagious and easily crosses national borders. Not everything contagious results in swift, physical death. Thoughts can be viral too, spreading ideas that release subtle forms of death over time. The good news is that heavenly thinking has the antibodies for stinking thinking. We are the carriers of the thoughts we entertain. Choose wisely, and heavenly thinking may infect the whole earth.

In the mid 1800's only the most special guests at Napoleon's dinner table used cutlery made from a metal named aluminum. Aluminum is the third most plentiful element in the earth's crust, but people were not able to make it accessible to all. Many years later a young student enrolled for chemistry courses at Oberlin College. He and his parents had to leave the mission fields because they did not have enough funding. One day in class the professor displayed a small piece of shining metal – it was aluminum. He told the class that the person who made aluminum abundant would change the world and become very rich. This young student told one of his classmates: "I'll be that man." Each night he experimented in the woodshed behind his parents' house. When he found himself stuck, he played worship songs on the piano. And one night while he was stuck and playing worship songs, a thought from heaven entered his mind. It was no small discovery. He went on to patent the process of electrolysis that made aluminum accessible to the world. He became very rich and left a large portion of his estate to fund missions and education throughout Asia. Today anyone wealthy enough to buy a can of Coke has handled a significant amount of

the once cost-prohibitive material, aluminum.

Thinking like heaven means thinking from heaven and that is always a surplus. There is plenty for everyone who will receive. In prophecy, God may use you to speak heavenly surplus into people's lives, transforming their situations forever.

Heavenly thinking will help you to better understand the prophecies of the Bible as it is revealed to you by God. It will also help you see and hear more clearly in the spirit and thus flow more smoothly in the prophetic.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, please help me to focus more on the things above and think like heaven. I ask this in the wonderful Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

4. OBEDIENCE AND REVELATION

A fourth key for unlocking Biblical prophecy is obedience. When God sent Samuel to anoint David as king in the place of Saul, he did not want to go for fear that Saul might kill him if he heard about the anointing of a new king, but he was obedient nonetheless. Samuel saw the good looking young men and wanted to anoint one of them, but God did not permit him. Samuel was obedient and anointed God's choice, who became one of the greatest earthly kings Israel ever had. **(1 Samuel 16:12-13).**

These wonderful words were written in **1 Samuel 3:19-20** about this obedient prophet of God: **And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan even to Beer-Sheba, knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of God.**

We also read the story of a powerful prophet of God who was obedient to God and prophesied a hard word to the king. God supernaturally showed up when he delivered that word, but God also told him not to eat bread or to visit with anybody until

he returned home. An old prophet went out to him and lied to him telling him to come and eat bread with him. He listened to the old prophet and disobeyed God. **1 Kings 13:15-19** **And he (the old prophet) said to him, Come home with me and eat bread. And he said, I may not return with you nor go in with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. For a word was given to me by the Lord, You shall eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that you came. And he said to him, I am a prophet also as you are. And an angel spoke to me by the Word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with you into your house, so that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied to him. So he went back with him and ate bread in his house, and drank water.**

The Lord sent a lion to kill this prophet because he was disobedient. It happened so supernaturally, that the lion did not eat the dead prophet or his donkey. The lion just stood waiting at the prophet's body until someone arrived. **1 Kings 13:26** **And when the prophet who brought him back from the way heard, he said, It is the man of God who did not obey the Word of the Lord. And God has delivered him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the Word of the Lord which He spoke to him.**

Did you ever receive a word from the Lord, but you did not act immediately because you wondered: Was that really you Lord? And the next moment somebody else gets up and delivers the same prophetic word with powerful effect. Not a nice feeling!

Prophetic people have to continually obey God if they want to be used of God continually. Even if it is another prophet or the king himself who wants you to do something God did not tell you to do, obey God only. Samuel told Saul in **1 Samuel 15:22** **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice! To listen is better than the fat of rams!**

In **Acts 4**, the rulers, elders and scribes, Annas the high

priest, and Caiaphas, threatened Peter and John not to spread the Gospel any longer but in **Acts 4:19-20** they answered: **Whether it is right before God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**

After they had been released, they just went back and continued to tell the people the good news that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Jewish leaders were furious and brought Peter and John in again. **Acts 5:27-29** **And bringing them, they stood in the Sanhedrin. And the high priest asked them, saying, Did we not strictly command you that you not teach in this name? And behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood on us. And Peter and the apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.**

I was attending a conference in Harrisburg in the USA. The speaker told us about a well-known preacher that was the main speaker at a conference. He stayed at a guest house near the conference hall. The day before he was to leave, the owner asked him to please fold the sheets and put them on the bed when he left. This was a strange request, but he decided to do as he was asked to. The last morning of the conference as they were busy with the praise and worship, it struck him: the sheets! He never folded the sheets! He excused himself from the conference and quickly went to fold the sheets. Fortunately, he was back before he had to speak.

A few years later there was a massive breakthrough in his ministry. He was amazed and he asked the Lord: Why did this happen? The Lord only responded with: Do you remember the sheets?

The moment we had a break after this story, I ran out of the conference and obeyed the Lord regarding two things I knew He wanted me to do: A book that I had to buy and a form I had to complete. The unction of the Holy Spirit was so strong that I knew: If I miss this, I will miss big time! Every now and

again when I hear God speaking and I hesitate, I remember the sheets... and obey.

In this regard, God says in **Zechariah 3:6-7: And the Angel of the Lord charged Joshua, saying, So says the Lord of Hosts: If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My charge, then you shall also judge My house, and shall also keep My courts, and I will give you places to walk among these who stand by.** The message is very similar to **John 14:21 where Jesus says: He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.**

If we love God and obediently keep His commandments, He promises that He will reveal Himself to us. The Greek word for 'reveal' is '*emphanidzo*' which means: manifest; appear to; inform; disclose by words. This is the prophetic realm opening up to those who are obedient. **Zechariah 3:7** even promises us heavenly experiences (He will give us places to walk amongst those around His throne) if we are obedient and keep God's commands.

Write down one positive affirmation that will help you to be obedient when God speaks.

Put it at a place that will remind you to say it out loud every day for the next 21 days.

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5. ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD

Encounters with God lead us into an open heavens lifestyle!

Did you have an encounter with the living God sometime in your life? Then you will know how life changing that can be. If you did not experience something like that yet, I believe with all my heart that it is available for those of us who really yearn for it!

Some of the greatest prophets in the Bible had encounters with God that changed and influenced their lives and prophetic ministries forever.

Moses was in the desert looking after his father-in-law's flock, when God encountered him. **Exodus 3:2 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire, out of the midst of a thorn bush. And he looked. And behold! The thorn bush burned with fire! And the thorn bush was not burned up.**

This one encounter with the living God changed Moses from a stuttering fugitive shepherding a flock, into a powerful leader that confronted the mighty Pharaoh and led more than a million people out of captivity. This encounter with God opened up the prophetic realm for Moses and brought a deep desire for more encounters with God.

In **Isaiah 6:1-5** we read about the awesome encounter Isaiah had with God: **In the year that King Uzziah died I then saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphs; each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory. And the doorposts moved at the voice of the one who cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, Woe is me! For I am undone; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts.**

He could never forget what he saw. The seraphs, the

doorposts, the smoke, and the awesome presence of the Almighty God sitting on His throne! This encounter was only the beginning of the revelatory realm that opened up for him. From that day onwards God spoke to him many times telling him to go and deliver a prophetic word to the nation and the king. God also opened up the future to him and showed Isaiah that the Messiah would come. So vividly did he experience it that he could state exactly how this Messiah King would operate: **For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)** Isaiah was so sure about the healing powers that would flow through Jesus, that he spoke about him in the past tense although it was nearly 700 years before the birth of Christ: **But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. (Isaiah 53:5).**

Jeremiah's encounter with God was on a different level. **Jeremiah 1:4** says: **And it happened, the Word of the Lord came to me, saying...** But it must have been more than only words, because Jeremiah saw and experienced: **And the Lord put forth His hand, and touched my mouth. And God said to me, Behold, I have put My Words in your mouth. (Jeremiah 1:9)**

Again and again after this experience with God, Jeremiah heard the voice of God telling him to go and prophesy. The circumstances were very difficult, people rejected him and his prophecies and his life was even in danger, but after the encounter with the God of eternity, Jeremiah could not help but prophesy. His name and his prophecies will live on until the end of time.

The way God encountered **Ezekiel** strongly resembles the way God encountered John in the book of Revelation. Ezekiel saw the heavens open and he experienced heavenly

visions: **Ezekiel 1:1** And it happened in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth of the month, as I was among the captives by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel saw the likeness of the glory of God and he fell on his face like a dead person. **Ezekiel 1:28** As the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain looks, so the brightness all around looked. This was how the likeness of the glory of the Lord looked. And I saw. And I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

This encounter with God had such an effect on Ezekiel that he sat amongst his people for seven days without speaking. **Ezekiel 3:15** Then I came to the exiles at Tel-at-abib, who lived by the river Chebar. And I sat where they sat; and I also dwelt seven days, being stricken dumb among them.

The Apostle John knew the Lord Jesus Christ. He had encounters with Him every day for nearly three years. John was one of the three in the inner circle of the twelve disciples. John loved Jesus and even rested his head on Jesus' breast, but after his encounter with Jesus on the Isle of Patmos, he would never be the same.

John was in the spirit on the day of the Lord, when he heard a mighty voice behind him. He could never have been prepared for what he experienced next: **And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned, I saw seven golden lamp stands. And in the midst of the seven lamp stands I saw One like the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the feet, and tied around the breast with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And His eyes were like a flame of fire. And His feet were like burnished brass having been fired in a furnace. And His voice was like the sound of many waters. And He had seven stars in His right hand, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.**

And His face was like the sun shining in its strength And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Revelation 1:12-17).

After this encounter with the resurrected Christ, God started to pour prophetic revelation into John. He wrote down the prophetic letters to the seven churches and then he saw a door in heaven opened and a voice calling him to come up there. He had the most profound heavenly experiences and the prophetic messages God gave to John are still relevant for today. They will be relevant until Jesus comes on the clouds to take us home.

Encounters Today

Nobody can make encounters with God happen, but we can pray for it. In **John 14:13-14** Jesus promises us: **And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

Luke 11:11-13 For what father of you, if the son asks for bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake for a fish? Or if he shall ask for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?

Encounters with God are not always as spectacular as Moses' experience with the burning bush or as Isaiah experienced by seeing God and the seraphs. Jeremiah only had the word of God coming clearly to him. There are so many ways you can encounter God, but you will know when it happens, that it was an encounter with the Almighty.

I had a few encounters with God in my life and I experience Him daily. One encounter that stands out and changed me forever was when God showed me a glimpse of hell. We

were in a conference and while they were ministering to us afterwards, I was sitting on the floor next to the podium. The next moment God opened up a window into the spiritual realm and showed me a glimpse of hell. I could not stop crying and I prayed all the time: 'Father, please don't let anybody get into hell – please Lord, save the people from this!' After the experience I could not stop crying and I could not speak to anybody. Only much later that night could I tell my wife what had happened. Every time I think about that vision and even now as I am writing about it, the tears well up. The effect of this encounter is that I desperately want more of God than ever before and that I have a compassion for the lost like never before. The lost must be saved at all cost. Let us plunder hell and populate heaven while we still have the time to do it.

Encounters with God are precious experiences and they are available for you today! Such encounters will open up the revelatory realm in your life like never before.

Prayer: *Dear Father, will you please touch my life today, to experience You on a deeper level than ever before? Will you please give me more regular encounters with You so that I will fall deeper in love with You? ONE THING I desire, Oh Lord: To live in Your presence every day of my life and to gaze upon Your beauty... I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

6. IMPARTATION

Impartation is a key that can unlock the prophetic. Although all impartation is the work of the Holy Spirit putting something inside of us that we did not previously had and could not manufacture ourselves, there are different ways God uses to impart the prophetic to somebody.

• Sovereign impartation:

Some people will just start getting impressions about other people, or they may begin dreaming vivid dreams and know the meaning of the dreams, or just start having prophetic

visions. They did not even pray for any prophetic experience, it just started happening.

The Lord does not always announce Himself when He imparts the prophetic gift to somebody. He will turn on the tap and let the prophetic waters flow into that person in a supernatural way.

This is what **1 Corinthians 12:11** talks about: **But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately to each one as He desires.**

The Holy Spirit sovereignly gives gifts to every believer so that we can serve each other better. **1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

• **Apostolic impartation:**

The Apostle Paul knew he had the authority from God to impart spiritual gifts to people under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He said to his spiritual son, Timothy: **Therefore I remind you to inflame anew the gift of God, which is in you by the putting on of my hands (2 Timothy 1:6).**

It works like using a hosepipe to water the garden. The Apostle is only the hosepipe. The power and the gift comes from God who uses His obedient apostolic hosepipe to allow the power and gift to flow into the other person. There are more Biblical examples where God flowed through ordinary people:

Numbers 11:17 And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take of the spirit on you, and will put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you so that you do not bear it yourself alone.

Deuteronomy 34:9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on

him. And the sons of Israel listened to him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.

Today, when an apostle lays hands on somebody, prays and imparts a spiritual gift, God can give spiritual gifts to people or increase gifts they already have. I have seen this happen in congregations and in outreaches to other countries. The people receiving the gifts are changed forever by God and become powerful instruments in His hands.

• Prophetic impartation:

Timothy received a gift and Paul reminded him in **I Timothy 4:14: Do not neglect the gift in you, which was given you by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the body of elders.**

The interesting fact is that the gift was given to Timothy by prophecy. The laying on of the hands of the elders complemented and confirmed the gift received through prophecy.

Many times I have experienced how prophetic people prophetically releases a gift into somebody's life and that person spontaneously starts flowing in that gift.

I received the gift of dreams and interpreting dreams while just sitting under the teaching of a prophet who flowed in dreams. God touched and transformed my life through the prophetic word without me asking or praying for it. It happened while I was eagerly drinking in teachings about how God uses dreams to speak to us.

We cannot receive prophetic gifts without the Holy Spirit imparting them into our lives. When He uses Apostolic or Prophetic 'hosepipes' to bring the impartation into our lives, it works like taking a shortcut. What would have developed over years while the Holy Spirit imparts into us, can happen in one moment when He uses a person to accelerate the

streams of gifting waters to flood our systems.

What are you going to do to get more impartation to prophesy?

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7. PRAYER

Although prayer is closely related to walking in God's presence, it deserves to be mentioned separately. The amount of time you spend in prayer is directly linked to the anointing flowing out of your life. Praying is the one of the most practical things we can do, both to get prophetic revelation and to understand it.

Prayer is not doing something, but being with someone. It is communion with God Himself. Prayer is the simplest activity of the believer. Child to Father ... lover to lover ... a conversation – sometimes spoken. Intimacy is the main purpose of prayer.

Progress into intimacy with God, is progress into silence. **Psalms 62:1 Only to God is my soul in silence.** How desperately the modern world needs this baptism into silence before God! Only when you can be silent before God in prayer, will you be able to clearly hear His voice prophetically.

Prayer is much more than only bringing your requests before God. Prayer is conversation with God. That means that there will be times when we speak or ask, but there will also be times when we are quiet and listen to God's voice. There are also times when you quietly wait on God without talking. True prayer happens when you hear and understand the

heart of God and pray for those things that are a priority on His agenda. It is also the easiest way to get your prayers answered – just pray what is on God’s heart.

If you do a study of the books of Luke and Acts regarding the time Jesus spent in prayer, you will be astonished. Early in the morning, still deep into the night for others, he would separate Himself to pray. **Mark 1:35 And rising up quite early in the night, He went out and went away into a deserted place, and He was praying there.** Often he went into the mountains for solitary prayer and sometimes He spent a whole night in prayer. **Luke 6:12 And it happened in those days that He went out into a mountain to pray, and He was spending the night in prayer to God.**

It was a lifestyle of prayer that left such an impact on the disciples that they asked the Master to teach them to pray like that too. **Luke 11:1 And it happened as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught His disciples.** Jesus said that the disciple is not higher than the Master. If Jesus needed so much time in prayer to fulfill His ministry on earth, how much more time do we have to spend in prayer?

Time spent like this in prayer, will also open up the prophetic and revelatory realms to you. **Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and inscrutable things which you do not know.** And **1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says: But as it is written, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,” nor has it entered into the heart of man, “the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

At the International House of Prayer in Kansas City in America, it often happens that after a long time of intercessory prayer, leaders will just start to prophesy into the people’s lives. When you pray and listen to God’s voice, He will often give

you prophetic insights that you never had before.

Sufficient time on a daily basis is necessary for effective prayer. It will not just happen by itself. You need to book out the best time of the day, every day, and keep to it. This prayer time can include studying the Bible, meditation on the Word you have just read, and soaking time (time just being on your face before God – sometimes with soaking music playing). Praying in tongues during your daily prayer time is a wonderful way to speak to God and grow in your anointing.

When you make prayer a priority in your life, God will open the revelatory realm more and more to you. It will also become a lifestyle to communicate with God all day long, regardless of what you are busy doing at work or at home.

8. SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

***God has assigned spheres of influence to you
where your prophetic gifts have the greatest impact.***

– Dan McCollam.

In 1975 God spoke to three Christian world leaders at approximately the same time, giving them the same basic revelation. They heard the following: Culture is shaped by seven mind molders, or mountains, in society. If we can influence each of these seven areas for Christ, we will win the culture of our nation.

The seven mountains are: Business, Government, Media, Arts and Entertainment, Education, Family, and Religion. In what area do you think you are called to make a difference on this planet?

For too long, the church has isolated itself from the world. We pulled out of politics and the education system. We withdrew to our Christian quarters where we felt comfortable and accepted, not realizing that we had abdicated our place of influence. In

this way we withheld the atmosphere of heaven from those who desperately need it. We are God's waterspouts. We don't have to whack people over the head with what God has given us; we only need to pour out the atmosphere of heaven in their midst. His love will transform and refresh wherever we go.

In a track and field event there are more than 20 disciplines one can compete in. These events range from running and jumping to throwing and even combinations of events. An athlete should train differently for every area of focus. Those running don't have to exercise jumping and those throwing don't have to practice running. In the same way it is helpful to know for what 'events' you prophetically should be training for.

Even Paul knew where his calling and focus was: **We, on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you. (2 Corinthians 10:13). Amplified.**

Ask God to tell you for what sphere of influence He created you. Asking the following questions about the 7 areas/mountains, may assist you to have more clarity on this issue:

- In what area did you see the greatest amount of influence, favor, and authority?
- On what mountain do the tasks, results, and promotion come more easily to you?
- Where have you seen the most success with the least amount of effort?
- In what area are you motivated the most to work hard and persevere?
- On what mountain do people most respond to your gift or input?

When you flow in the prophetic gifting, that gift will work anywhere you go. But I have seen some people prophesying so easily in the church (mountain of religion), but the flow is not the

same when they have to go out to prophesy in the marketplace (mountain of business). Others feel more at home when they prophesy at their workplace than in the church.

A friend of mine from Canada is a business man who is also involved in ministry to the nations. After years of global prophetic ministry in churches and in business, the Lord recently opened doors for him to speak to heads of states in two different African countries. I believe the mountain of Government is opening up to him and this is only the beginning of the influence he will have on that mountain.

Graham Power is the owner of Power Construction in South Africa. God has given him a tremendous influence in business in South Africa and globally. God stretched his influence to start the Unashamedly Ethical group who influence businesses to conduct business in an ethical way. God also used this business man to start the Global Day of Prayer. Graham Power is blooming where God planted him. That should be a positive example to all of us to influence the mountain where we were called to shine.

You can reach your purpose and destiny so much more easily, if you know exactly for which mountain of influence God created you.

PROPHETIC TRAINING JOURNAL

After you have determined your primary mountain of influence, please select a dedicated file on your laptop or notepad, or get a journal for this exercise. You will probably use it for at least a year or longer.

Now select an influential person from your mountain of influence as your prayer target. (If your mountain is Education, you may choose a Professor or the Minister of Education. If it is government, you may choose a national leader with much influence.)

Now start asking the Lord for specific information regarding the person for whom you are praying. It may be Scriptures,

promises, areas needing breakthrough, etc. (Because this activation is still part of your training program, this information will not be shared with the person who you are praying for.)

While you are journaling every week, put dates and times to specify prophetic information and activities that you have received.

Keep on prophesying and measuring the effect of your prayers in the life of your target person, without establishing communication with that person.

By building your prophetic muscle in the sphere of your influence, you will be ready to be a strong prophetic source of encouragement in the future.

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SEVEN MOUNTAIN GROUPS

After establishing your primary mountain of influence, let your group share their mountains of influence. Now break into smaller groups of about 5 people each from the same mountain.

Each small group will now pray for specific information regarding their mountain of influence.

After listening to the other people in your group, you may perhaps want to redefine some of the things you heard and you might add some of the things other people are experiencing.

Now make time to determine the strongest direction that resonates with the whole group. Together decree and declare these prophetic encouragements into the heavens. Keep journaling what you experience and what the group declares while listening to what is happening on the mountain of your influence.

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9. EXERCISE!

For some reason, many people think prophets should be able to bypass the practice and skill-building process. It takes hundreds if not thousands of attempts at public speaking and teaching before you become decent and relatable. The more we exercise our prophetic gifts, the better it will flow.

In Hebrews 5:14 we read: But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, even those who because of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Just as we have physical senses, we also have spiritual senses. Just as our muscles grow when we exercise them on the field or in the gymnasium, our spiritual muscles also grow when we exercise them regularly. The best place for these exercises is definitely not the Sunday morning worship service, but within the security of a home group where the people know each other and love one another. If we slip up in that environment, it is not the end of the world, because all of us know that we are growing into our callings.

A wonderful way to grow in your prophetic gifting is to have mentors assigned to you to whom you are accountable and who can help you develop.

When we have trained people in the prophetic and in dreams and healing, we often take them to malls or other places where they can practice their gifts in small groups. They are always supervised by mentors who are available to help out if the situation is too difficult.

God is using Shawn Bolz all over the world, but also in the entertaining industry. One day he was in a well-known coffee shop in Hollywood. He saw a guy who was in the entertainment industry and felt drawn to him in the spirit. He asked God to share His heart for this person. Shawn went up to him and asked him: “Hey, do you have a brother named Stephan? Or a cousin?” The celebrity smiled and said no. Shawn – feeling embarrassed – was hightailing away, when the guy said: “Why did you ask?” Shawn answered that he is practicing to hear from God and he thought God showed him something. The guy was ecstatic! All his life he had been waiting to meet somebody who hears the voice of God. He asked if Shawn had a moment to share with him. Forty-five minutes later this guy was saved and it all started out as a wrong word of knowledge. Information does not count that much, but love does.

If somebody walked up to you and gave you the keys to a brand new car, how would you feel? If you only walked around with the keys, and showed it to your friends, that car would be of no use to you. The moment you put the keys in the ignition of the car and turn the key, that key can open the door to driving pleasure that you have never experienced before. The keys God gave us in Scripture to develop our prophetic gifting work just like this. You have to start using these keys to experience the amazing world of the revelatory realm. Here, take your keys and enjoy the ride!

Make time every day to ask God for a prophetic word for somebody as you are driving to work. You don't have to give the word to that person – just listen to God's heart for the person... Just exercise your prophetic gift in this way

until it becomes second nature.

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For the next month, write down every prophetic word you received for somebody that day....

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10. ALWAYS BE PREPARED

The abundance of God's thoughts toward each person gives us confidence to speak prophetic encouragement at any moment.

– Dan McCollam.

Sometimes the opportunity to speak a prophetic word to somebody comes suddenly and the door remains open for only a few minutes. That is why we must always be prepared in season and out of season. **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (2 Timothy 4:2).**

How do you prepare for sudden and unexpected opportunities to prophecy? What we believe determines how we live. The following two beliefs can help us to always be ready:

a) God's thoughts toward us are innumerable:

If we believe that God has only one thought or prophetic word

for every human being, it would place enormous pressure on us to hear only that one thought. But if we believe like the Scripture says that at any given moment, God has many good thoughts about each of us, it releases the pressure.

Psalms 139:17-18 tells us: **How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand.**

It is like walking on the beach. At any given time I can just reach down and grab a handful of sand – it is always available. There are so many good thoughts that God thinks about a person, that I can tap into that limitless recourse any time – I will find an encouraging word for that person.

b) The gifts of the Spirit remain in me all the time:

God is Immanuel – always with us. His anointing and spiritual gifts are always upon us and He will never take them away.

Romans 11:29 For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]

Amplified.

1 John 2:27 But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [permanently] in you. *Amplified.*

I listened to a testimony about Chad Dedmon and how bold he is to enter places where very few of us would have gone. He once went to the studios of Oprah Winfrey. He received a word from the Lord that the second door will open for them. When the security people refused them entrance at the first door, he just went to the second door and they miraculously allowed them to enter without an appointment. He arrived at Oprah's studio wanting to speak to her and as the security guards were busy removing him, he received a word of knowledge and shouted it

to her. She asked them to leave him alone so that she could hear what he wanted to say. Being ready with a word of knowledge in a split second, opened the door for Chad to witness to her.

If we believe that there are many thoughts of God towards all His children all the time and that the prophetic gifting and His Holy Spirit enables me all the time, we will also believe that we can receive a prophetic word from God in a split second.

And if we also exercise regularly to be ready in and out of season, we will be ready all the time.

30 SECONDS PROPHECY

Have a whistle ready and explain to the people what is going to happen. Those who have recording devices with them may keep it on all the time to help them remember what they said and what was spoken over them.

The people in the room are going to form two lines facing each other. The moment the whistle blows, the lines will start moving in the opposite directions. When the whistle blows again, each person will face somebody and start to prophecy for 30 seconds. Then the person facing them will also prophecy for 30 seconds.

The whistle will blow again and the lines start moving until the whistle stops them for two 30 seconds of prophetic word. Repeat this until everybody prophesied over 10 people.

Now write down those words spoken over you so that you can remember what really touched you.

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11. PROPHETIC ACTIONS

***Prophetic actions in the earthly realm
release a powerful shift in the spiritual realm.***

– Dan McCollam.

A prophetic action can be a powerful way to unlock the prophetic words that God has spoken over your life. It can be acting out what God wants to say, because the picture it creates may be stronger than words. A prophetic action may cause the recipients to question its meaning, which then prompts the giver to explain God's heart or intentions.

When Ezekiel packed his bags, dug a hole through the wall of his home, crawled through the space with his bags, and then walked away with his belongings slung over his shoulder, the people of Jerusalem asked what he was doing. He replied that he was a sign to them: as he enacted going into exile, so they would do the same (**Ezekiel 12:3-12**).

It is sometimes embarrassing or humbling to perform a prophetic action. Isaiah went naked and barefoot for three years as a sign against Egypt and Cush. (**Isaiah 20:2-6**).

A prophetic action may shock a nation! God told the Prophet Hosea to marry a prostitute! The people would say: But how can a man of God do something like that? And then the message of God would come: God's people are like prostitutes having affairs with other lovers. Turn away from your sin and only love God!

Often a prophetic action can act as a dramatic encouragement, indictment, exhortation, or warning. The battered and beleaguered Jewish exiles saw little hope for their return to the Promised Land, much less the reunification of Israel and Judah. Because prophetic words went only so far to console, encourage, and inspire, the Lord prompted Ezekiel to join together into one hand the two sticks that represented Judah

and Israel (**Ezekiel 37:15-23**). His action raised questions among the exiles, so the prophet explained God's glorious, future intentions with His people: their ultimate return to their land and their uniting into one people under the rule of the Davidic king.

Because the spiritual inspiration for a prophetic act can come in the twinkling of an eye, we need to walk in an attitude of vigilant openness to the Lord. He may have us carry out a prophetic action at a moment's notice or even spontaneously. Such spur-of-the-moment acts often possess tremendous power, for they prophetically address an immediate issue or development.

Although prophetic actions are at times spontaneous and unintentional, they remain highly potent. After king Saul's sin was exposed by the prophet Samuel, the latter turned and began to walk away from Saul. Fearing the great prophet's rejection, Saul grabbed and tore the edge of Samuel's robe. Samuel interpreted Saul's grasping as a prophetic action, for he immediately proclaimed that God had torn the kingdom of Israel from Saul and given it to a more worthy person (**I Samuel 15:24-29**).

In the New Testament the sacraments of baptism and communion (**Romans 6:1-7; I Corinthians 11:23-26**) are strong Prophetic actions. Jesus instructed his twelve disciples to shake the dust off their feet as a prophetic act against the people of a city who rejected their witness (**Luke 10:8-12**).

There is also tremendous power in self-initiated prophetic actions! It can be that you receive a prophetic word from God, and in faith you decide to act upon that word through a specific action.

Years ago when God said that we will be in a building for certain period of time, we as a congregation did a prayer walk around the building seven times and poured olive oil on certain areas because the Holy Spirit prompted us to do

so. God gave us that building for a period of time and we experienced the presence of God there in a special way. Many signs, wonders and miracles happened there.

When my wife and I were moving to a new area that God had shown us, we knew the enemy wanted to postpone the miracle which God was already busy doing. We decided to do a prophetic act of moving all our stuff over to the new place and we only kept a single bed mattress in our previous home. Within two weeks everything went through and the miracle happened.

We all know that there is tremendous power in a prophetic action. The question is: When am I allowed to do it? Can it turn into something like witchcraft if I misuse it? Everything we do we have to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus trained us to live in a **John 5:19** way: We only do what we see the Father do and we only say what we hear the Father say. We can only do prophetic actions when the Holy Spirit of God is prompting us to do so.

Friends of ours in the mission field were led by God to buy coffee mugs to hand out to people. If it is a young lady that needs a husband, they will prayerfully give a mug with a happily married couple on it. If a couple desperately wants a child from God, they would prayerfully give them mugs with newborn babies on it. This resembles Jacob when he stripped the outside of the twigs so that the goats would see striped twigs in the water when they drank, and then produced striped lambs.

When we minister on Kingdom Finances we teach sound Biblical principles on how to live in abundance. When the people understand the principles of that lifestyle, we will sometimes invite them to bring something tangible that represents that for which they are trusting God. People will for example bring a car key if they trust God for a vehicle or a bank statement because they want to be debt free. As the Holy Spirit leads us, we will then agree with them and

trust God with them for the miracle while we decree the breakthrough.

A prophetic action can spiritually initiate or determine human battles. But your walk with God and your passion in the action can make or break the future! Elisha helped king Joash of Israel shoot an arrow eastward – the arrow of victory – which symbolized the victory Israel would have over the Arameans at Aphek. The prophet then ordered the king to prophetically strike the ground with the arrows in his hand. It was a strong command from the prophet and the king should have reacted in passion against his enemies. Instead, the king only struck the ground three times. Elisha was upset with the king's reserved effort. Elisha proclaimed that if the king had struck the ground six or seven times, then Israel would have completely destroyed its enemy instead of merely striking them three times (**II Kings 13:14-19**).

We need to use boldness and passion while doing spiritual warfare. The demonic world does not act passively toward us and we should not act passively toward them and their evil attacks against us, our families, our churches, and our nation. This does not presuppose that every prayer we make or every word we deliver in spiritual warfare requires accompanying prophetic actions.

Well-intentioned, passionate prophetic actions are not synonymous with Spirit-led, inspired prophetic actions. For the latter to occur, much prayer and waiting on the Lord are generally required.

Because prophetic actions can occur in visions (**Jeremiah 25:15-38**) and through the agency of angels (**Revelation 18:21-24**), we need to always focus our attention on the spirit dimension. In doing so we may gain instruction as to what we need to do. We may come to understand what the Lord is doing in or through us, and gain insight as to what the Lord and His angelic hosts are doing in the spirit realm. Visions and dreams can reveal to us prophetic actions that we are to

carry out. Let us unlock our prophetic words!

Every time God is giving you a dream, a vision, or a prophetic word, He is giving you a key to unlock your destiny. Loose it! You can build and plant your destiny! In **Matthew 16:19 Jesus says: I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth must be what is already loosed in heaven. (Amplified)**

Our responsibility is to call forth the things that are not as though it were! **(Romans 4:17)** When we receive a word from God, start praying and speaking it into existence. Know today that when God gives you a prophetic Word, the enemy wants to kill and destroy it. He wants to kill a move of God in the infant stages! That's why many babies were killed when Moses was a baby – the enemy knew that his defeat was coming through Moses. That is also why many babies were killed again when the birth of Jesus was prophesied. The enemy wanted to kill Jesus because he sensed his coming defeat through Him. By speaking things into existence under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can stop the evil plans of the enemy and be instrumental in establishing more of the Kingdom of God on this planet.

REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:

WHAT PROPHETIC ACTIONS ARE YOU TAKING NOW AND WHY?

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RECOMMENDED PROPHETIC ACTIONS:

Do the following prophetic actions as the Spirit leads. Then write down what the results were.

Healing: Ask if somebody has pain? Then ask God if there is a prophetic action He wants you to do? (Like removing a dart from the back, putting your hand on the area and removing the pain symbolically, cutting the source of the pain above the person, etc.)

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Prophetic movements: Put on worship music and invite people to act prophetically as the Spirit guides them to. If it is in the evening, dim the lights so that people will feel less self-conscious. (For example dance; bow down; kneel; lay down; lift hands; etc.)

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Prayer for the Nations: Ask the Lord how He wants you to intercede for a specific city or nation. (Lay hands on a map, stretch your hands towards the nation, do a prayer walk for that city or nation, etc.)

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Show and Tell: Deliver a short prophetic message to a person that includes a prophetic action from your part. The verbal portion of the message must be short and the action non-intrusive and not touching the other person. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an action that will affirm the word you received for that person. (For example: Stand next to the person and strike with an unseen sword – the words of God that you will speak will be like a two-edged sword Hebrews 12:4; Stand behind the person with your arms to either side of the person and quote Psalm 3:3 You are a shield around me, O Lord.)

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Chapter 3

HOW DOES THE PROPHETIC WORK?

The new man can be trained in sensitivity to discern spiritual information through physical senses.

– Dan McCollam

When we talk about the prophetic, the picture that usually comes to mind is that of a gifted person on a podium telling us what God revealed or what is going to happen in someone's life. This is only a small part of the big picture.

There are many ways a prophetic person can receive a prophetic word and there are different ways in which that message could be delivered. This means that there are many prophetic people who receive prophetic messages who are not even recognized as being prophetic. Perhaps you may see yourself in some of the descriptions that follow and perhaps you will realize that you are already flowing in areas of the prophetic that you were unaware of.

God created us with different senses to hear, see, smell, taste, and feel. These are gates of information to the natural world. When revealing the prophetic to us, He uses the same senses to reveal the supernatural into our natural world.

In previous years when pilots were trained, part of the training

would be done in a simulator. When the pilot gets into this small room, it looks exactly like the cockpit of the plane that he will one day fly. All the gadgets and instruments resemble a true cockpit and the big window is a TV screen that can be activated to simulate different scenarios in flight. After take-off and when at a very high altitude, oxygen will be taken from the cockpit to resemble a crisis situation. Every pilot reacts differently to the loss of oxygen. Some have a tingling experience on their skin; others get severe headache, etc. Just before the pilot passes out, oxygen is pumped back into the simulator. The pilot must then immediately write down what they experienced when there was a loss of oxygen. That becomes their guideline how to react when, in real flight, something similar happens and the instruments are out of order.

In a similar way we must be in the presence of God so often that we will know what it feels like when the manifest presence of God shows up. Our senses must be trained to know what we hear, see, taste, smell, and feel when God is speaking prophetically to us.

Just like any other spiritual information we receive for prophecy, we should judge the impression before delivering it. We can ask the following questions to help us discern:

- ❖ Is it consistent with Scripture?
- ❖ Is it encouraging?
- ❖ Does it convey wisdom and peace from God?

1. HEARING GOD'S VOICE

God communicates with us in many different ways. When I want to talk to a friend of mine, I can call him on the phone, Skype with him, have coffee with him, or choose from a number of methods. God also likes to communicate with us and He is doing it in many different ways.

All God's children ought to hear His voice. Hearing God's voice does not necessarily make you a prophetic person. The

prophetic person has to speak God's words to be prophetic. In Chapter 1 we saw that prophesying is speaking in order to strengthen, encourage and comfort others – it is speaking divine encouragement. It is to receive from God and speak it to men.

God is God – He speaks as He chooses, when He chooses and to whom He chooses. We are not always told in Scripture how God speaks – only that He speaks. For example: We are not told how the Holy Spirit said: **“Separate Barnabas and Saul to Me for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2)**. Another example: **“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28)**. Nowhere does the Bible tell us how the communication took place – it only tells us that God spoke and His children heard.

We don't have to fear that we will perhaps open ourselves to hear voices from the demonic realm when we focus on the Word and the voice of God. Jesus gave us the assurance that we know His voice and that we will also know the voice of a stranger. **They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him because they do not know the voice of strangers (John 10:5).** *Amplified.*

God still speaks to His children today. He never stopped speaking to us. Yet we seem to have lost track of how He speaks or we limit with our beliefs how we believe that He is speaking today. The gift of prophecy is the equipment we need to tap into the spirit realm. It acts like a radio receiver to hear from Heaven. God anointed us to hear what is already happening in the spirit world. Without this prophetic gift, we are like deaf people in the spiritual realm.

STILL SMALL VOICE:

This is the most common way in which people hear the voice of God. In **1 Kings 19:11-13** we read: **And He said, Go forth and stand on the mountain before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the**

mountains, and broke the rocks in pieces before God. But God was not in the wind. And after the wind was an earthquake, but God was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake was a fire, but God was not in the fire. And after the fire was a still, small voice. And it happened when Elijah heard, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out, and stood at the cave entrance. And behold, a voice came to him and said, What are you doing here, Elijah?

The still small voice is an inner voice that sounds nearly like our thoughts. In the beginning you may think: Was that my thoughts or was it God? But as you grow in the prophetic you learn to know when God speaks through the inner still small voice. Elijah immediately discerned when it was God speaking in this manner and covered his face.

When you are close to someone, you do not have to shout. When you have a close relationship with somebody, you rarely have to raise your voice to be heard. I believe God desires to be so close to us that all we need is a whisper from Him.

Bob Hazlett tells about a time he disembarked from a 20 hour flight and he had a meeting scheduled an hour later. When he got to his taxi, the driver opened the boot and just motioned with his eyes for Bob to load his own luggage. His flesh complained, but he kept quiet. In the taxi he wrestled with the attitude of this guy who was obviously also from another faith. Bob dipped into heavens recourses and decided he would tip the guy in abundance. When they reached their destination, the driver repeated the same eye movement for Bob to remove his own luggage. Then Holy Spirit intervened saying: "He can't pick up your bag because he hurt his arm." When Bob asked if he was hurt, the driver told him that he fell three weeks ago and sprained the tendons in his arm – that was why he could not pick up the bag. Bob took hold of the hand and commanded the arm to be healed and the tendons to be healed. The healing was immediate. The driver took off his brace and picked up the suitcase. Hearing God's

voice and being obedient to His voice can change a situation completely.

How would someone who is new to the prophetic know when it is God speaking in a still small voice? You will know it. Sometimes you may wonder if it is really God, but deep inside you will know. It is like a clear voice on your inside, but it does not register in your physical ears. Sometimes you will experience an emotion when you hear that voice, e.g. tears welling up, compassion, love, etc. Sometimes when God speaks like this, it would be a voice or a thought opposite to what you were thinking about just before it happened.

For me the most amazing thing is that God doesn't only speak to Christians. Through the ages He has spoken in different ways to unbelievers like the Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, and others. One of the prophets traveling the world tells stories about how unbelievers hear God's voice and their lives are changed! He tells about a time he was ministering in Hawaii. The place he stayed was near the red light district. When his hosts dropped him off at his hotel it was about 22:30 and he was hungry. On his way to a sandwich shop a guy on the street wanted to sell him dope. When they guy saw that he was not interested, he wanted to sell him a girl. It was a girl of about 15 year's old sitting at a closed diner's entrance with 2 young guys.

The prophet said that he was not interested in a girl, but that he would like to talk to her for a minute. He introduced himself and then asked her what her dream in life was? She did not have any dream. He said that he is a Christian Pastor and that God loves to talk to him about dreams. He quickly prayed and asked God to show her His dream for her life. Immediately she said: "I heard I should be a cook." The prophet continued that God not only wants her to have a great dream, He also wants to show her the steps how to fulfill that dream. They quickly prayed again and she replied: "Whoa!" "God said to call my uncle who owns a diner!" When she called her uncle, he and his wife had already been praying for her for

years. They immediately gave her a job in the kitchen plus accommodation. She later received Jesus Christ as Lord and was on her way to be the co-owner of a new diner they wanted to open up.

Are you willing to be an ambassador for the King to help other people hear the voice of God?

Since the voice of God comes internally and quietly, it is a subjective way to hear Him and although it is a valid way of hearing Him, it must also be judged in the light of the desires of our own hearts. As you grow in your walk with God your discernment to know when it is from Him or not, becomes so much sharper. It is like the voice of a loved one that becomes unmistakably clear.

People will sometimes say that they do not hear God's voice. What they actually mean is that they do not hear God's voice in the precise and sometimes spectacular way that other people may hear it. However, when we read the Bible, we hear Him speaking. When we really sit down and prayerfully think about ways of hearing (like impressions and the still small voice), we must acknowledge that we do hear His voice. The more time we spend in His presence, the clearer we will hear Him speak.

Prayer: *Father, please teach me to hear your still small voice with more clarity every day.*

OUTER AUDIBLE VOICE:

When God is speaking in this way, you hear Him like you hear any other person speaking to you. The sound of His voice comes audibly through your physical ears. Samuel heard God call his name (**1 Samuel 3:4**) so clearly that he thought it was Eli calling him. Moses heard God's voice from the burning bush and at other times (**Exodus 3:2**).

If you think that you perhaps heard God speak to you audibly,

you have not. When He speaks in this fashion, all thought and doubt are removed. There is no mistaking the audible voice of God. It is a very high level of revelation.

A friend of mine in Zimbabwe was walking alone one day when God audibly spoke to him. He was startled to hear the voice without seeing anybody. But that one encounter with the living God changed his career and his life forever.

Many people think that those who hear the audible voice of God are higher class Christians than those who hear the still small voice. This is not true. It does not matter how you hear His voice, as long as you know that you can hear it. In **John 10:4-5** Jesus said that His sheep know His voice.

Isaiah prophesied that God would speak to us in an audible voice: **And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when you turn to the right hand and when you turn to the left. (Isaiah 30:21).**

Are you ready to listen if God wants to speak to you in an outer audible voice?

2. SMELL

God may use our sense of smell to clearly speak to us. **Psalms 45:8** says: **All Your garments smell of myrrh, and aloes and cassia.** I have been in meetings where nearly everybody could suddenly smell the sweet fragrance of God's presence. Sometimes you will be alone with Him and then you just start smelling His sweet presence.

Dan McCollam tells a story about Chuck and his passion for street evangelism. One day in the chilly moors of Northern England, Chuck prayed for an unbeliever who suddenly smelled the fragrance of his father's aftershave. Chuck did not use aftershave. Through this man's perception of smell, Chuck began to prophesy that his Heavenly Father was demonstrating His nearness in that moment. The man had

a life-changing encounter with God through the gate of his senses.

The opposite is also true. When you do healing and deliverance people will sometimes smell the bad smell of cancer and sometimes a smell like rotten eggs or the sewer when demons go out.

A fragrance can trigger a word of prophecy. Let us offer our noses to God so that He can communicate to us through fragrances.

Prayer: *Father, will You please activate my senses so that I may smell Your presence?*

3. TASTE

Psalm 34:8 says: **taste and see that Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.** **Psalm 119:103** says: **How sweet are Your Words to my taste! More than honey to my mouth!** Some people will taste something like honey when God manifests Himself!

I once had an experience with God that resembles what is written in **Revelation 10**. It was in the very early hours of the morning. It was dark and I was walking up and down in the room, praying. The next moment God said to me: Open your mouth. As I opened my mouth widely, I saw how God put a book in my mouth that I had to chew and swallow. Although it may sound weird, I did just that. After I swallowed the book, my tongue touched my lips. I tasted a very faint sweetness on my lips.

On other occasions I was ministering to people in a healing line and suddenly nausea swept over me. The first time this happened, I thought I was getting sick. As I continued to minister I realized that there was a demonic presence in the person I was ministering to. God wanted to show that to me so that He could free the person with His love.

When you minister to people, you may sense a taste in your mouth that was not there before you started ministering. Inquire from God what it means. Many times that may be the spark of a prophetic word that God wants to give to that person.

Heavenly Father, I always want to taste and see that You are good!

4. TOUCH

God sometimes touched His prophets in the Old Testament and that resulted in prophetic information. Daniel and Jeremiah were examples of that. **Jeremiah 1:9** ***Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.***

God speaks to us many times through impressions that come through touching. Sometimes I will not hear a prophetic word for a person before I touch the person.

I will be walking down the healing line ministering to people and not hear a word for the next person. But the moment I touch that person, God will e.g. show me in the spirit a huge injury to the head. Then I know exactly where God wants to minister healing to the root of the problem and I can prophetically speak healing in the Name of Jesus.

We are also able to discern by touch that which is not from God. One evening after ministering to a group of our young people, they gathered around me to pray for me. Some of them laid hands on me and there was no problem with that, because I knew most of them very well. There were one or two visitors that evening. The moment one of them touched me, I knew that the hand was from a person with open doors in his life. I cut the effect of that person's life on my life and prayed for him in silence because I did not want to expose him in public.

Praise the Lord that He wants to use our sense of touch to use us in His service.

5. SEE

God can use both internal and external vision to inspire a genuine prophetic word.

Sight or vision is the ability of the eye and the brain to detect electromagnetic waves within the visible range of light.

In **Jeremiah 1:11** God asks His prophet: What do you see? And when Jeremiah said he saw the almond tree branch God confirmed this and started speaking into what the prophet had seen. In **Jeremiah 18:11** God sends His prophet to the potter's house to show him something about which to prophesy.

God may use both what we physically see and what He shows us in the spirit, to trigger a prophetic word for others.

Visions:

The way you see what is temporal is with the eyes in your head. The way that you see what is eternal is with the eyes of your heart. – Bob Hazlett.

Visions are Biblical ways in which God speaks to people. In **Acts 9:10-12** we see God speaking to two men in two different visions to accomplish God's plan: **Now there was in Damascus a disciple named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he answered, Here am I, Lord. And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying. And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias enter and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight. (Amplified).**

A vision can be a panoramic vision like a motion picture on a screen or it can be like still pictures (snapshots from a

camera). This is not something that you can naturally see or experience. God speaks to us in a supernatural way through visions. Normally it takes only a few seconds to see the whole story, but some prophetic individuals will have prolonged visions and even visions that will continue on successive days, starting from where they left off.

Some believers think that they cannot see in the spiritual realm, but I believe that most of us are able to see in the spirit. Let us just daydream for a moment: Close your eyes and just look at what I am seeing. There is beautiful green grass and a stream of clear water softly flowing through the middle of this landscape. There are a few big trees with lush green leaves along the banks of this stream.

Can you see the picture in your mind? Just daydream a little more ... What else do you see? Most people have no difficulty to see the picture, because God gave us the capability to see with three-dimensional clarity in color on the canvas of our imagination.

To see in the prophetic realm is not far from what we just saw. In **Ephesians 1:18** Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened. 'Heart' is the Greek word '*dianoia*' that means: understanding; deep thought; or imagination. Our imaginations are the channels through which we see.

The human imagination envisions what God communicates to the human spirit. Divine words and impressions become pictures the heart can ponder and hold as spiritual reference points. When these unseen things of heaven are seen in our human hearts, they pull us out of our minds and into God's mind. And when we get into God's mind, we see what He sees.

There are three main kinds of visions:

Open-eye vision: Your eyes are open and you can still see your surroundings, but at the same time God is showing you

a still picture or a 'movie' which includes motion. I was eating breakfast in a certain city and at the same time God showed me an open-eye vision that changed my whole life. Although it lasted only a couple of seconds, it told a whole story and I will never forget it.

Inner open-eye vision: This happens exactly like a previous open-eye vision, but while your eyes are open, you see a picture or a scene in your mind. It is no less vivid or no less powerful than external open-eye visions; it is only another way God is speaking to you. I will sometimes sit talking to people or be writing an email to a person when suddenly God will show me an inner open-eye vision about that person, to assist me in ministering more effectively.

Closed-eye vision: This is very similar to inner open-eye visions, but it happens while your eyes are closed. You may be busy praying or worshipping the Lord in your congregation when God speaks to you in this way.

When God speaks to you in visions, you will know exactly what He is saying to you most of the times. If you don't understand what you are seeing, the most important thing to do is to pray that God will enlighten your spirit to understand the vision. Many people immediately run to the more experienced prophetic people for understanding, but by doing this, you might lose an opportunity to grow in the prophetic. The same God Who gives the visions wants us to understand what He is saying. Only if you still don't understand what God is saying after times of prayer, consult with the more experienced people so that you can learn in that way.

External objects: Though we should never prophesy by outward appearances, God can use objects like clothing, a necklace, shoes, or a watch to focus our attention on it and trigger a prophetic word for the person. I will sometimes sit with somebody and my eyes will catch something, like his ring. I will tend to look, and look again. In my spirit this will become a focus and then I will hear the Lord saying something to the

person connected to that ring.

It works something like this: After the realization of a heightened awareness of the ring, you can ask the Holy Spirit for confirmation. Confirmation can reveal itself in many different forms, from an inward peace, to a continued pressure, or a compulsion to speak. Heightened attention or focus to external detail can come with a flood of additional information and ideas, or with a single, focused thought. A lack of confirmation would be any negative sensation about moving forward, a sudden dissipation or evaporation of the heightened awareness, or a flood of information in a contrary direction.

I read of an amazing way in which God used sight to heal a woman in Australia: When she was four years old, she was involved in an accident which cut the tendons in her wrist. In the healing process her hand was frozen into position. The pastor prayed for her for healing, but nothing happened. Then he felt to pray again. The moment he put his hand on her frozen hand, God showed him a picture. He saw her playing piano with both hands, writing a song and singing. When he shared with her what he saw, she confirmed that she started with piano lessons a year ago, but she could only play with one hand. The preacher thanked God for two brand-new piano hands and for the gift to write songs and sing. Her hand opened up. She was completely healed! Seeing what God showed in the spirit, released Divine healing when he obeyed.

The more you take risks to speak out prophetic encouragement the more you will learn to recognize how Holy Spirit leads you.

ACTIVATE YOUR SEER GIFT:

Take some time (15 minutes) to be quiet before the Lord in a place where you will not be disturbed. Then ask God to show you a picture or a vision that He wants to talk to you about. You might want to play soft music in the back ground and you might want to read a passage of

Scripture to focus yourself on God. Then close your eyes and see if God shows you something.

When you see something, it might be very quick or not well defined. Keep on focusing on what you see and ask God to please show you more about it.

Then write down what you saw and ask God for the meaning. Now record the meaning. If this is a picture for somebody else, ask God to show you how to deliver the word with sensitivity and in love.

Book out regular times every week just to exercise the gift of seeing.

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ACTIVATING WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NATURAL AS A TRIGGER TO THE PROPHETIC:

Get together with a friend or a small group to practice prophetic encouragement triggered by an item of clothing, jewelry, shoes, etc. It is important not to judge by appearances, but to allow the Lord to draw your attention to a specific thing that triggers a word of prophetic encouragement.

When the Lord focuses your attention on something, like somebody's watch, keep listening for what else the Lord is saying prophetically to the person.

Write down what the Holy Spirit shows you and how He links the rest of the prophetic word to the external object.

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6. PROPHETIC IMPRESSIONS:

God often uses impressions to speak to us prophetically. The Holy Spirit will often reveal things to us by unction or through an anointing. It is often a hunch, a prompting, or a 'gut feeling' due to a perception in our inner self as it receives nudges from the Holy Spirit. You may just sense danger without any reason for it, or you feel that you must pray for someone. Most of the times you cannot explain what you are experiencing in a logical way, but you know that you know that this is from God. We will grow in discerning this way of His speaking to us as we mature in the prophetic.

There are soft impressions that are very quiet inside. You may just feel the unction to take another road today. Afterwards you hear that there was an accident on the road you normally take. Strong impressions have an urgency to it, for example a mother waking up at 3 am with an urgency to pray for her son and later on he tells her that his life was threatened at that very moment. Still stronger are compelling impressions like when Amos was compelled to speak when the Lion roared.

Many people think that impressions are the entry level of the prophetic and that may be true in most cases, but even when you have matured in the prophetic, God will still speak to you through impressions. At that stage you will clearly know it is a prophetic prompting from God and act on it.

Prayer: *Father, will you please keep on speaking to me through impressions? Will you also give me clear discernment to know when an impression is from you or not? In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

7. A WORD OF KNOWLEDGE

Words of knowledge partners with the prophetic to stimulate faith. – Don McCollam.

A word of knowledge is a supernatural gift of God where He gives you information through the Holy Spirit about a person, place, or event that you could not have known in any other way. It may be something that happened to a person in the past or it can be something a person is going through in the present. A Scriptural example of such a word of knowledge is when Jesus encountered the woman at the well: ***In John 4:16-19 Jesus said to her, Go, call your husband and come here. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said to her, You have well said, I have no husband for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband. In that you spoke truly. The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.***

While most prophetic words deal with truths present-to-future, words of knowledge deal with facts past-to-present.

Such a word of knowledge can be a tremendous help from the Spirit when you sit down with somebody in a counseling situation. I once saw a prophet of God operating in this gift while a lady from another city came in to be helped. We were at the airport and did not have much time available. God showed him, through a word of knowledge, exactly what had happened earlier in her life and what she was currently facing, before she even shared what her problem was. He prophetically ministered to her and within a very short time God had touched her and she went home as a new person.

A word of knowledge can also give you information about a person's health. If a prophetic person receives a word of knowledge from God about cancer or a heart condition or whatever and calls out people with those conditions,

miraculous healings often take place when those people are ministered to.

The wonderful thing about this is that you often do not even need to lay hands on the sick for them to be healed at all. On outreaches we sometimes give the group an opportunity to call out words of knowledge about health conditions in the attendees. We ask the people to stand when their condition is mentioned and we speak God's healing over them while they are standing at their seats. When we afterwards ask who were healed, the majority of people will raise their hands and give glory to God for their healing.

1 Corinthians 12:7-8 But to each one is given the showing forth of the Spirit to our profit. For through the Spirit is given to one a word of wisdom; and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit.

So in what way does a word of knowledge partner with the prophetic? It stimulates faith! When somebody tells you something that nobody else could know, you know this is supernatural and 100% true. That opens your heart for faith towards God who revealed this truth.

This is exactly what happened to Nathanael in John 1:47-51. Nathanael was very skeptical about this Jesus. He said: Can any good thing come from Nazareth? But the moment Jesus saw him, He read his mail. Jesus said: You are an Israelite without deceit. When skeptical Nathanael asked: How do you know this about me? Jesus answered: Before Phillip called you under the fig tree, I saw you. Now Nathanael knew this was God speaking through Jesus. That opened up his heart so that Jesus could continue to prophesy over him: You will see greater things. You will see the heavens opened. And Nathanael believed!

Shawn Bolz was sitting next to a man on a plane ride to Australia. They talked life, families, and careers. This man said he was working for oil companies and this was his last

month travelling the globe for them. At one point he got up and went to the bathroom and that was when Shawn heard the voice of God about this man. When he returned from the bathroom, he asked a question that opened the door for Shawn to share this word with him.

“He told me that you are an air marshal and that your wife’s name is Patricia. He also told me that He wants what you want more than you ever wanted it – like going to the Italian vineyards in southern Italy when you retire. He also told me about your daughter, Anna, and how she is pregnant but experiencing difficulties, and how you prayed and asked Him to help her. You told Him you would do anything if He would just help her. He wants to help her more than you do, and she and her baby are going to be okay.”

Tears were streaming down this air marshal’s face continually while listening to this word from God. He was overwhelmed and just wanted to hear more from a God like that. He felt like everything in his life was put in the right order again by this word of knowledge.

There are many ways in which God can give you a word of knowledge. Some of the most common ways are the following:

† **Feel it:** You will feel a pain or discomfort somewhere in your body. It will be something that you don’t normally feel and it will sometimes stay with you until God heals that person. Some people who do not understand this may feel as if they are sick or in severe pain and they will not even realize that God wants to use their bodies to heal other people.

† **See it:** God may give you a picture of an illness (e.g. the right kidney) or you may have a vision of a man in a wheelchair with a broken back. When you see it, you may know God wants to bring healing.

† **Dream it:** The night before the meeting you may dream about a lady in a red skirt who is deaf and how God touches

her and opens up her ears to hear. When you walk into that meeting and you see that lady, you may call her out to receive God's healing.

† **Read it:** The Lord may show you somebody's face and written on the forehead is the word: migraine. Then you know who it is and what God wants to heal. You just speak the healing.

† **Think it:** Sometimes a word just pops up into your mind, e.g. scoliosis! Then you just speak it and decree God's healing when the person stands up.

† **Say it:** While you are busy saying something, words that you did not mean to say, may just flow out of your mouth, e.g. carpal tunnel. Then you know it is God speaking and you may declare divine healing in Jesus' Name.

While I was serving in a certain denomination, I attended an interdenominational conference. The speaker asked me a question regarding the viewpoint of my denomination. When I opened my mouth, the words just flowed out that I am no longer a minister in that denomination. I don't know who was more shocked – myself or the people around me! Within a short period of time God showed me a blueprint of a new ministry and told me to plant our current ministry. Only then did I understand why this had happened.

† **Experience it!** When you experience something about a disease in somebody, it might be a combination of seeing it and feeling it in your own body. Just call out what you experience and when the person comes forward, minister God's healing to the one who is sick.

Words of knowledge are for all areas of life – not only for healing and counseling. When you receive a word of knowledge, be very specific about it. For example: There is somebody with a ringing sound in your right inner ear.

Be wise not to embarrass people when calling out certain diseases. Rather let them stay seated and speak God's healing, or minister to them personally afterwards. When God gives you a word of knowledge in a counseling situation and it could be embarrassing to the person, talk about it in vague terms so that the person will know what you are talking about without calling it by name.

How to flow in a word of knowledge: As mentioned earlier in **1 Corinthians 12:7-8**, a word of knowledge is a supernatural gift of the Spirit to us. You may grow in this gift by following the following simple steps:

- (1) Believe that this gift is available to you.
- (2) Ask the Lord to give you this gift.
- (3) Receive this gift as an act of faith
- (4) Exercise the gift as a demonstration of your faith.

People sometimes ask: "But what if I miss it and nobody responds?" The worst thing that can happen is nothing! On the other hand, you could experience a miracle.

ACTIVATE WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE:

Pray before the time and ask God to give you words of knowledge for somebody who is sick in your group or congregation. Then test the areas of feel, see, dream, read, think, say, and experience to see if you received anything from the Lord.

When you get a word of knowledge, write it down:

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Ask permission to share it and be specific. When somebody responds, be bold and speak healing or breakthrough over that person. Command the pain to go and release the healing of God over the person.

After speaking healing over the person, ask if there is a change in their condition or a difference in the pain level they had.

Give time for some testimonies of healing at the end of the ministry.

8. DREAMS

A dream is a visionary revelation from the Holy Spirit that one receives while asleep. It is a series of thoughts, images, or emotions that appear in our minds during sleep. These meaningful and sometimes spiritual messages come to you every night whether you remember them or not.

God is a supernatural God who communicates with His people through supernatural means. The words “dream” or “vision” or their variations occur in the bible over 200 times. Dreams begin in Genesis and run throughout the Bible. Dream language is an accurate and detailed communications tool thoroughly grounded throughout Scripture.

God used dreams and visions from the beginning to convey His message to His people and a big part of Scripture is about dreams. With the coming of Jesus Christ to this planet, God spoke to Joseph in dreams on three occasions, to give him direction. God also spoke to the wise men through a dream and showed them what to do.

It is God’s chosen plan to speak to His children through dreams: **Numbers 12:6 And He said, Hear now My words. If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord will make Myself known to him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream.**

Job 33:14-16 For God speaks once, yea, twice, but not one takes notice. In a dream, a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men; while they slumber on the bed; then He opens the ear of men and seals their teaching.

A common word for “dream” in the New Testament is *onar*. We read of *onar* for Joseph (**Matthew 1:20**); the wise men (**Matthew 2:12**); and Pontius Pilate’s wife (**Matthew 27:19**). Such dreams are visionary in nature because our minds create images that we ‘see’ while we sleep. Another Greek word that speaks about a vision while we sleep is *enupion*. **Acts 2:17 And it shall be in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh. And your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.**

Dream language is not a dead language but a dynamic, living language of love. The primary difference between dreams and other revelatory impartations is that we receive dreams first in our subconscious minds and later become aware of them in our conscious minds.

There are many books today providing interpretations for words and symbols that occur in dreams, and they are helpful tools. But first and foremost we must ask the Holy Spirit to open up to us, the prophetic understanding of dreams. Jesus told us in **John 16:13** that the Holy Spirit will reveal things to us. Many symbols that God uses as He speaks to us are already found in the Bible; so the more we know the Word of God, the more we will be able to understand the dream language of God.

There are two main categories of dreams: internal or external. Internal dreams are about yourself. Most dreams are about yourself and God uses that to disclose things about ourselves so we can pray about it and work on it. External dreams are about outside events. It may include you but it is about other people or things. The main reason God gives us dreams like this, is for us to intercede for that specific situation. Sometimes

God will release us to tell the dream to the other person.

While in South America, a family member of the President of a neighboring country invited Shawn Boltz to meet with that President. All the believers told Shawn how bad and cruel this President was, so Shawn decided not to go. But that afternoon he took a nap and had a dream from God where He showed him the President's life story. He was in foster care from 12 years old, was thrown around, and never experienced good parenting. God had compassion for this President and asked Shawn: "Will you be a father to him for a minute?" Shawn went, but was not received very well, until he gave the first word of knowledge from God. These were about such classified secrets, that the President dismissed all the people, apart from two highly ranked officials. As Shawn shared more words of knowledge, this hard man broke down before God. He asked Shawn to pray for him and this he did with a heart full of compassion and love for this dictator.

God can use dreams to turn around history and God will use the prophetic to bring His love to anyone alive – even if it is only for a minute.

Dreams can come to us from three possible directions: As a natural part of our sleeping patterns, from God, or from the enemy. That is why it is important to ask God for discernment and for Holy Spirit guided interpretation of your dreams.

Dreams from our natural self:

- 1. Body dreams:** These dreams may reflect some physical condition of the person who is dreaming. For example: A person might dream that he has flu, of she might be thirsty or need to go to the bathroom.
- 2. Chemical Dreams:** It may be the result of medication you are taking or it can be due to hormonal or chemical levels in the body, e.g. PMS or Diabetes.

- 3. Soulful Dreams:** This may be about your emotions, needs, and desires and can show you things about yourself that you may otherwise fail to see.

Dreams from the Holy Spirit:

- 1. Dreams of Destiny:** Reveal God's calling and the unfolding of God's plan in your life. You may dream that you are the CEO of your company, while at this stage you are only the Manager.
- 2. Dreams of Edification:** Filled with revelation, inspiration and hope. (Jacob in **Genesis 28**)
- 3. Dreams of Exhortation:** Inspiration to get up and do something for Jesus. You may see yourself ministering to children in Africa.
- 4. Dreams of Comfort:** Heal our emotions by re-interpreting past circumstances through God's heavenly lenses. Heavenly perspective on an earthly situation.
- 5. Dreams of correction:** Reveal character issues, heart issues, repentance issues that need personal changes. It is not condemnation, but love that draws us towards God.
- 6. Dreams of Direction:** Specific guidance that sometimes include warnings.
- 7. Dreams of Instruction:** God is teaching you and Scriptures may be used.
- 8. Dreams of Cleansing:** Cleansing and purifying us from the dirt we pick up by walking in the world. Images of toilets and showers are often seen.
- 9. Dreams revealing the Heart:** Self disclosure dreams show us where we really stand with God.

- 10. Dreams of Spiritual Warfare:** Reveal hindrances and call us to prayer, fasting, and tearing down strongholds.
- 11. Dreams of Creativity:** God shows us designs, and new ways of doing things.
- 12. Dreams with Impartation:** God imparts into you various dimensions of the Gifts of the Spirit. Sometimes an angel may appear in your dream touching you.

Dreams from the demonic realm:

- **Dark Dreams:** Most of the time it is dark (night) in the dream and most of the time the emotional tone is dark too.
- **Dreams of Fear and Panic:** Mostly nightmares. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the root of it (like trauma) and rebuke the spirit behind it.
- **Dreams of deception:** It tries to create images and impressions in our minds that want to turn us away from God's light into the darkness of error and heresy.

Dream interpretation is an excellent tool for evangelism today. People are eager to understand what their dreams mean. After every worship service we have a team of people who are ready to help people understand their dreams. Many dramatic breakthroughs take place in individuals' lives.

When we do treasure hunting in malls and other places, our teams are equipped to interpret other people's dreams. When a person experiences how God is speaking to him through his dreams, that person is touched by the Spirit and open to receive the God who gave him that dream.

If you want to dream more and understand dreams, you may want to open your heart before God and receive the following impartation from the Holy Spirit:

Heavenly Father, I pray for an impartation of your Holy Spirit into the person that is now reading and praying this prayer. Will you please open up the seer prophetic realm of dreams over his/her life? Please impart into him/her the gift to dream dreams and to understand Your dream language. Please also give him/her the gift to interpret the dreams of other people through the guidance of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name we pray and receive it. Amen.

JOURNALING YOUR DREAMS

Open a document on your Laptop or other electronic device for journaling dreams. When you write down you dream, always put the date and where possible the time of the night when you dreamed it. After recording your dream, always write something like: Will You please reveal to me the meaning of this dream, O Lord?

For the next week, decide to fast from TV and all other worldly influences – especially two hours before you go to bed. Fill that space with reading the Bible, reading about the Prophetic, or the realm of the supernatural. Make enough time to pray before you go to bed. Decide to get up and journal your dream if you have a dream in the middle of the night (you might forget the dream before you get up the next morning).

Make a habit that every night before you go to sleep, you will ask God to speak to you through dreams and that He will help you to understand your dreams. Go to bed with an expectancy that you will dream and that you will understand.

Date and time of the dream:

Content of dream:

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Meaning of this dream, please Oh Lord?

9. TRANCES

A trance is a state you supernaturally enter in when you have an experience from God. You enter a dreamlike state, but you are definitely awake during the vision. You see images as if you are sleeping, but you know you are awake.

In a trance you participate in the scene through your actions. You cannot put yourself in a trance; it comes from God and it does not end until He terminates it. Trances can last any length of time, from a few seconds to several hours.

There are greater and lesser degrees of ecstatic experiences. The Greek word for trance is *ekstasis* and it means: displacement of the mind or bewilderment. The New Testament words “amazed”, “amazement” and “astonishment” have also been translated from the Greek word *ekstasis*. Both Biblically and experientially, there are various degrees of trances.

One can be shocked, amazed and joyfully caught up in your emotions through the Holy Spirit. At a higher level your bodily functions can be temporarily put on pause while caught up in the Spirit.

We don't have to be afraid of this experience. Trances are found in the New Testament. In **Acts 10:9-16**, God gave

Peter instructions for evangelization while in a trance. The result of this trance was that the gentiles heard the Gospel and were accepted into the household of God: **The next day as they were still on their way and were approaching the town, Peter went up to the roof of the house to pray, about the sixth hour (noon). But he became very hungry, and wanted something to eat; and while the meal was being prepared a trance came over him, And he saw the sky opened and something like a great sheet lowered by the four corners, descending to the earth. It contained all kinds of quadrupeds and wild beasts and creeping things of the earth and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him, saying, Rise up, Peter, kill and eat. But Peter said, No, by no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common and unhallowed or [ceremonially] unclean. And the voice came to him again a second time, What God has cleansed and pronounced clean, do not you defile and profane by regarding and calling common and unhallowed or unclean. This occurred three times; then immediately the sheet was taken up to heaven. (Amplified)**

In **Acts 22:17**, Paul was in a trance when the Lord appeared and spoke to him: **And it happened to me, I was returning to Jerusalem and praying in the temple, I became in an ecstasy.**

A trance is an open heaven experience in the prophetic realm where God touches your life in a supernatural way to communicate His heart to you.

Do you desire trances in your life? Why do you say that?

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10. VISITATIONS

Visitations by angels: When we read through the Bible, it seems almost normal for people to receive angelic visitations. Abraham, Jacob, Joshua, Gideon, Elijah, Daniel, Joseph (Mary's husband), the shepherds at Jesus' birth, Peter, Paul, and many others saw angels and heard angels speak to them. **Acts 27:23-24 For this [very] night there stood by my side an angel of the God to Whom I belong and Whom I serve and worship, And he said, Do not be frightened, Paul! (Amplified).**

When Peter was chained to two soldiers in prison, an angel released him and led him out of prison. **Acts 12:7 And behold! An angel of the Lord stood by, and a light shone in the building. And striking Peter's side, he raised him up, saying, Rise up quickly! And his chains fell off his hands.**

After being released Peter went to the house where the Christians were praying for him. His release was such a miracle, that they thought it was Peter's angel standing at the door. **Acts 12:14-15 And when she knew Peter's voice, she did not open the porch because of gladness, but running in she reported Peter was standing before the porch. And they said to her, You are mad. But she kept on saying that it was so. And they said, It is his angel.** That means that the early believers must have seen angels often and that they knew there is a resemblance between a person and their angel.

God is still sending His angels today to protect His children and to minister to them. **Hebrews 1:14** says about angels: **Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?**

Psalms 91:11-12 says: **For He shall give His angels charge over You, to keep You in all Your ways. They shall bear You up in their hands, lest You dash your foot against a stone.**

There is a growing awareness amongst Christians about the existence and value of angels today. Many see them at worship meetings or individually at places and others experience the presence of angels at certain times. It would do us a lot of good to be more open to angels and their message, because the literal translation of angel in Hebrew is *malach* and that means messenger – messengers from God. We should also be careful not to put the emphasis on the angels, but on God who sends them to us.

One of my dear prophetic friends received her calling from God with an angelic visitation. She was still very young and did not know anything about angels or the prophetic, when God sent a huge angel to her. Today she is walking in the office of a Prophet and she hears and sees clearly in the Spirit, but she can still remember that first angelic visitation with clarity.

There is a movement around the world that focuses on “angels” that are definitely not angels of God, but demonic beings presenting themselves in the form of angels. We need discernment and prophetic insight to know which are from God and which are from the enemy.

Heavenly visitations: In the Bible we see that God sometimes visits certain people in visions, in dreams, and sometimes He will reveal Himself to a person. God walked with Adam (**Genesis 3:8**). Paul had a visitation from God (**Acts 9:3-7**). John the Apostle saw the resurrected Christ in His glory and nearly died as a result. (**Revelation 1:13, 17**).

Jews in ancient times and also modern scholars understand the term: “angel of the Lord” as referring to God Himself (or to Jesus).

And then there was Paul who was taken to heaven and who had heavenly visitations more than once (**2 Corinthians 12:1-4**) **For I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in**

the body, I do not know; or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught up to the third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter.

One of my prophet friends has regular heavenly visitations. God will take him in the spirit (while his body stays in the room) and show him heavenly places and give him prophetic words to speak. Sometimes Jesus will visit him personally in his room and sometimes Jesus will appear while he is ministering the Word in worship meetings. We often travelled abroad together and ministered together, and I can see the effect that it has on his life. Sometimes he will just cry after the visitation. Even months later, when he talks about it, tears will still flood his eyes. He is so humble before God because he knows Him personally and he has a holy reverence for God. This is rubbing off on people wherever he ministers.

Prayer: *Father, will you please open our eyes to see more clearly in the heavenly and angelic realm? We welcome Your messengers, the angels, Oh Lord. But we also yearn for more heavenly visitations with You, our God and our King. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.*

11. TRANSLATION

When you are translated in the spirit, your spirit leaves and your body stays where you are. This is a Biblical phenomenon. In **2 Kings 5:25-26** we read: **He went in and stood before his master. Elisha said, Where have you been, Gehazi? He said, Your servant went nowhere. Elisha said to him, Did not my spirit go with you when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? (Amplified).** In some or other way the prophet Elisha was present when Gehazi met the chariot, although he was not seen by the physical eye. That means that he was there in the spirit.

A friend of mine often experiences how God takes him to minister in other places and in other countries while his body stays where he is at that stage. Afterwards people will phone him or email him to thank him for ministering to them, because God touched and healed them.

Are you willing if God wants to translate you to do His work?

12. TRANSPORTATION

When you are transported, your body, soul, and spirit are all transported together. **Ezekiel 8:3** tells us how God moved the prophet: **And He put out the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my head. And the Spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heavens, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the opening of the inner gate facing north, where there was a seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy. And, behold! The glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain.** His body and his hair definitely went along to see that vision!

We all know the story of Philip and how he baptized the eunuch. Then **Acts 8:39-40** says: **And when they had come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more. And he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus.** The one minute Philip was in one place and the next moment he was found bodily in another place.

We once ministered on a farm in the countryside. The presence and the anointing of God were powerful while we ministered. When we drove off we had to go through five or six gates on the gravel road before we could get on to the main road. We wanted to be sure of how many gates there were, so all three of us counted out loud as we passed through each gate. After the count of three, we were suddenly on the main road. I was astonished and then my daughter said: "Dad, we were transported by God – I experienced it while it was

happening.” Twice after that my wife and I experienced how God transported us while on our way back from a ministry trip.

Do you have a hunger and a readiness to be transported as part of the end-time church?

REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:

In what areas of the prophetic are you already flowing?

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Is there a desire to experience some of the abovementioned dimensions of the prophetic in a stronger way in your life? Why not seek the face of God and ask Him to take you deeper into that area?

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WOULD YOU TAKE SOME TIME NOW TO OFFER YOUR 5 SENSES TO THE LORD?

Lord, I give you my ears to hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying.

I offer you my eyes that I might see things that trigger prophetic information.

I give you my nose and tongue to perceive the flavors and fragrances that you want to communicate to me.

Lord, please touch me and make me fully sensitive to

spiritual information through my senses.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

TREASURE HUNTS

Kevin Dedmon, a Pastor from Bethel Church in Redding, California, started Treasure Hunts. By using this word of knowledge concept, many people have been saved, healed and touched by the love of God. You can exercise your gift of words of knowledge in the following way:

Prayerfully decide where the Lord wants you to go to touch people with His love. Then divide into groups of 2–3 people. Pray that God will give you clues about people's names; clothing; appearance and prayer needs. Write down all the clues you receive from God.

Now go the mall or the place that God showed you. Look for the person or the people for whom God gave you the clues.

Politely ask the person if you may share something with him or her. If they agree, show them the clues and tell them they are very special treasures in God's eyes. Then ask permission to pray for them about that which God has shown you. Be open for other needs they might express.

Thank them and if they are open enough, you may ask them for a mobile number so that you may follow up on their healing. You may perhaps hand out a business card where they can find you if they need you.

When you return, write down what happened and make time to praise God for it. Be available to testify about God's miracles if there is an opportunity at your church.

The more you exercise these muscles, the more effective you will be in the service of the Lord.

Chapter 4

TRUE and FALSE PROPHECY

***Intentionally choose to receive the mind of Christ
instead of giving people a piece of yours.***

– Bob Hazlett

We are living in a time when Christ is restoring the five-fold ministry of **Ephesians 4:11** to His church. The prophetic ministry is flourishing all over the world today. The children of God are hungry to receive an authentic word from God through His prophets. When such a prophetic word comes directly from God, people may experience dramatic breakthroughs and situations can be changed.

At the same time there is more hurt in the body of Christ because of the prophetic, than ever before. Sometimes when a “prophetic word” is delivered, it did not originate from God. Without discerning the spirit, people take hold of such a word and trust God that it will be fulfilled, but because it did not originate with God, there is no truth or fulfillment in such a word. This may cause disillusionment and hurt.

At other times a prophetic word was directly from God, but the people receiving it did not know how to handle it. Nobody told these people to pray such a word into existence and to act on it. It could be a word for the future that was interpreted as though

it would be fulfilled immediately. People may get hurt when the outcome of the word is not as they expected it to be, because nobody told them how to act upon a prophetic word.

In this chapter we are focusing on the true and the false prophets and their words. Jesus gave us the following warning in **Matthew 24:24** regarding the end times that we are living in: **For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders; so much so that, if it were possible, they would deceive even the elect.**

It is not always easy to discern the false from the truth because a false word may be accompanied by wonderful signs, which is precisely what happened in Egypt. When Moses performed signs and wonders in the power of the living God, the Egyptian sorcerers also performed signs under the power of Satan. **(Exodus 7:8-12)**

We must discern every prophetic word – to make sure if it is true or false. **John 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the spirits to see if they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the antichrist you heard is coming, and even now is already in the world.**

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MARKS OF A TRUE PROPHET?

1. True prophets always speak in the Name of the Lord with the authority given by God Himself. This is the first and foremost test to know if it is a true prophet. **John 12:50 So whatever I speak, I am saying [exactly] what My Father has told Me to say and in accordance with His instructions. (Amplified).**

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of

Himself but what He sees the Father do. For whatever things He does, these also the Son does likewise.

2. The true prophet stands in the counsel of God, and speaks the words of God to His people. **For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord, that he should perceive and hear His word? Who has marked His word [noticing and observing and giving attention to it] and has [actually] heard it? (Jeremiah 23:18) (Amplified).**
3. A prophet of God will always be able to confess that Jesus Christ of Nazareth has come in the flesh, and is the Son of God. **(John 4:1-3).**
4. A true prophet will exhibit Godly qualities such as love, peace, joy, longsuffering, faith, goodness, gentleness, and holiness. **(Galatians 5:22)** They do good works and speak good words.
5. A prophet of God will speak in love with the goal to edify the people and the body of Christ. Even if the message is a rebuke, it will be done in so much love that it will still edify the person receiving it. **1 Corinthians 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks to men for building up, and exhortation, and comfort.**
6. True prophets will always glorify God. They will give God the glory for the anointing and the power that operates in their lives. They will also glorify God through the words, actions and the supernatural signs they perform. They will never focus on themselves.
7. A true prophetic word will never contradict the Bible. A prophet of God will always speak with the authority from and in alignment with God's Word.
8. The test of a true prophet is whether the words he has spoken come true. **1 Samuel 3:19-20 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words**

fall to the ground. And all Israel, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of God.

9. True prophets may say things that contradict the religious order, but it will always be backed by the solid Word of God.

In **Acts 10:10-15** Peter had to do something that contravened the law of that time. He had to go into the house of an unbeliever and present the gospel to the Gentiles. When he did that he backed it with the vision that God gave to him.

10. When a prophet of God makes a mistake, it does not exclude him from being a true prophet of God.

Much of what could be considered as false prophecy may be accurate, but misinterpreted or misapplied prophecy. Someone may receive a clear picture from God, but not interpret or apply it correctly. In **Acts 21:10-12** the prophet Agabus took Paul's girdle and bound Paul's hands and feet. He then prophesied that the Jews in Jerusalem would bind Paul in this way and deliver him to the gentiles.

What actually happened was that the Jews took Paul and were about to kill him, when the gentiles saved Paul from them and then tied him hand and foot before they took him away. Agabus saw correctly, but he did not interpret and apply it correctly. That did not make Agabus a false prophet. It made him a human who can make a mistake and still be a prophet of God. The same applies to the prophetic today. We, who hear the prophetic voice, must discern from God what is true and what is not.

11. Many true prophets in the Biblical times were misunderstood and rejected by the majority of people. Jesus Christ was rejected because He did not meet the people's preconceived ideas of the Messiah. John the

Baptist was rejected because he was unconventional and uneducated. True prophets of God in our own time may also appear in a way which is not accepted by others. We will need discernment from the Holy Spirit to know if a prophet is from God or not.

FALSE PROPHETS:

There has always been false prophecy since the earliest Biblical times; therefore we should not be surprised when it happens today. The devil cannot create. Only God can create. Therefore, in his fight against God, one of the devil's main strategies is to deceive people by counterfeiting what God does. We should remember that the counterfeit of anything proves the existence of the authentic.

Prophecy gives voice to God's thoughts and actions in our world. False prophecy means: erroneous, untrue, wrong, mistaken, deceitful revelation. False prophecy always begins in one of two places: the flesh or the devil. False prophecy is a lie, because only God is true.

The devil has false Christ's and false apostles whom he empowers today to do counterfeit signs, wonders, and miracles. **(Matthew 24:24; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 16:14)** The enemy has false prophets to whom he might impart a lying spirit to deceive a king **(1 Kings 22:21)** or through whom he might impart a 'spirit of divination' to predict the future with some degree of accuracy **(Acts 16:16)**.

In **Deuteronomy 18:20-22** God declares about false prophecy: **But the prophet who shall presume to speak a word in My name which I have not commanded him to speak or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of God, if the thing does not follow nor come to pass, that is the thing which God has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You shall not**

be afraid of him.

To discern false prophets is not always easy. In **2 Corinthians 11:14** the Bible says: **Did not even Satan marvelously transform himself into an angel of light?** What they say might sound good and they may even perform miracles, but the source will not be from God and the fruit will not be good. False prophets may look like sheep belonging to the Shepherd, but actually they are wolves.

How many times did people prophesy that the end of the earth would come on a certain date or the collapse of the global economy would take place, without it happening as they said it would? How many people in history were labeled as the predicted antichrist?

In Africa there are false prophets who don't care for the flock and who are doing things that are unbiblical to say the least. Some ask huge amounts of money to bring a prophetic word and people pay the money to receive a word. Media reports show some of those false prophets making their people eat grass. A certain pastor encouraged his people to drink petrol to show their faith that the fuel will turn into pineapple juice. It stayed fuel.

In Kenya a very popular pastor was shown on TV to be fraudulent. He paid people to pretend that they have fits, disabilities and diseases. The moment he touched them, they were "miraculously healed". Many of those who were paid to fake their diseases witnessed on TV that it was fake. Nevertheless, people were still streaming to his church.

In times of economic and social challenges, people are much more prone to believe prophets because they are yearning for hope. Often evangelical pastors, especially the flamboyant type, are able to give people hope and make them believe things will get better.

Even in our own lives, the enemy wants to deceive us with his lies. We were once in Dubai ministering to a precious child of

God. While ministering, the Holy Spirit told me to go to an upper room and pray against the evil there. I was obedient and went to the room. The moment I was ready to pray there, I heard the 'voice of the Lord' saying: Don't pray that now.

I was really confused and asked: Lord, but you said I must come and pray here? Then the Lord clearly spoke to me: This was not my voice – it was the voice of the enemy trying to deceive you. I was shocked because I did not discern the voice of the enemy – it sounded just like the voice of God. Then the Lord told me to look outside. He showed me the tree next door, in the shape of a huge spider to confirm the deception of the evil one. When I later looked at the same tree, the shape of the spider that God showed me previously was no longer there. In the end times we have to know the voice of God so clearly, that the enemy will never be able to deceive us in this way.

It is fairly easy to discern modern-day false prophets like psychics, clairvoyants, fortune tellers, tarot readers, mystics, spiritualists, and New Agers. They resemble the tools and intents of the ancient Eastern religions that were condemned by the Lord God of Israel (**2 Chronicles 33:6**). When the false prophet comes with deception and disguised as an angel of light, is more difficult to be sure that he is false, but the Holy Spirit will give us the discernment.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MARKS OF A FALSE PROPHET?

False prophets do not possess godly character or good fruit. **Jeremiah 23:13-18** says that you can see in their lifestyle that they are not true prophets of God.

Matt 7:15-16 Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles?

1. False prophets speak the words of other prophets as if it were their own. **Jeremiah 23:30.**

2. They speak visions from their own heart, not from the heart of God. **Jeremiah 23:16.**
3. False prophets may speak truth or partial truth, but eventually they deceive and seduce God's people away from the Lord and His Word. **Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Jeremiah 23:32; Acts 13:6-8.**
4. Sometimes false prophets may have power. They can predict the future and perform signs and wonders. **Isaiah 44:25; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 24:24.**
5. They focus on themselves. They do not operate from love for people. They pretend to care for people, but in reality they control and manipulate them.
6. False prophets promote self-interest and demand belief in their position.
7. Many times false prophets reject correction and they answer to no man.
8. False Prophets deny Jesus Christ as Lord. **Jude 4.** They are antichrist in nature. The word Christ means "anointed one", therefore they oppose the anointing of Christ Jesus.
9. Very often false prophets are not in a covenant-love relationship with the Body of Christ – **John 15:13.** Covenant-love relationship means that we are not in relationship for what we can gain, but for what we can give.
10. False prophets use fear to motivate people. Their message often carries "doom and gloom". Sometimes their message would sound something like: "God showed me something about you, but I don't have the release from God to tell you". This kind of statement breeds insecurity in God's people and lacks love. **1 John 4:18.**

HOW TO DISCERN A PROPHETIC WORD

Not every prophetic voice we hear is necessarily from the Spirit of God. Satan has the ability to counterfeit the gift of prophecy. We must never just accept a prophetic word regardless of how gifted or important the prophet may be. **1 John 4:1** warns us: **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but try the spirits to see if they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** The word ‘try’ comes from the Greek word *dokimazo* which means to test, discern, examine, or try.

In **1 Corinthians 14:29** God tells us to judge prophecy: **And if there are two or three prophets, let them speak, and let the others judge.** The word ‘judge’ comes from the Greek word *diakrinōto* which means ‘separate thoroughly, figuratively to discriminate, discern, judge.’

Our English word ‘discern’ means: “to distinguish between”. The word “spirit” can mean the following in the Bible: angels, demons, the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, anointing and mantles. Discernment of spirits is the ability God gives us to recognize and distinguish between different types of spirits and anointing.

A Biblical example of the discernment of spirits is found in **Acts 16:16-18**: **And as we went to prayer, it happened that a certain girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much gain by divining. The same followed Paul and us and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the Most High God, who are announcing to us the way of salvation. And she did this many days. But being distressed, and turning to the demonic spirit, Paul said, I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out in that hour.**

Even though what she said was true, Paul discerned that she had a spirit of divination. She was not speaking by the Holy Spirit, but from a demonic spirit. This is what grieved Paul and he helped the girl by getting rid of the evil spirit.

WE CAN DISCERN OR JUDGE A PROPHETIC WORD IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- **A true prophetic word will never contradict the Word of God.**

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify together to everyone who hears the Words of the prophecy of this Book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add on him the plagues that have been written in this Book. And if anyone takes away from the Words of the Book of this prophecy, God will take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which have been written in this Book.

This warning applies to the book of Revelation, but I believe it also applies to the whole of the Bible, because the Bible is a prophetic book.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His Words, lest He reprove you and you be found a liar.

- **I must have an inward witness of the Holy Spirit with the prophetic word I received.**

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...

Colossians 3:15 And yet the piece (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and seeking with finality or questions that arise in your minds.] (*Amplified*).

- **The prophetic word must be in harmony with the testimony of Jesus.**

Revelation 19:10 Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

If a prophecy does not sound as if Jesus would have said it, then it probably did not come from the Spirit of God, but from another source.

- **The prophet must be able to confess that Jesus Christ is God and that Jesus has come in the flesh.**

The test is what they say about Jesus. Many will acknowledge Jesus, but they will not necessarily accept that He came in the flesh and that He is equal with God. **2 John 7 For many deceivers have entered into the world, who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.**

- **The prophetic word must be in harmony with the Spirit of Truth.**

Only the Holy Spirit of God will lead you in the Truth of the Word. The enemy will lead you to a mixture of truth and lies. **John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.**

- **The prophet will not operate in a spirit of mockery and pride.**

Anyone who constantly criticizes and accuses other believers and denominations is operating from a demonic spirit. The spirit of God is motivated by love and respect for others. **2 Peter 3:3 First, knowing this, that there will come in the last days scoffers walking according to their own lusts.**

In the process of discerning a prophetic word, do not speak negatively about prophecies or about prophets. In **1 Chronicles 16:22** and in **Psalms 105:15** God says: **Touch not my anointed, and do My prophets no harm.**

First make sure if it is a true word from God or not. If it is a false word, do not go around bad-mouthing the person. Rather pray for him to come into a right relationship with God and that the enemy will not pull him deeper into the darkness. If the false prophecy is negatively affecting other people, the Church or the Kingdom of God, it must be exposed.

How will you know when it is a true Word from God that has been prophesied over you?

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What are you doing with prophetic words you receive and know are from God?

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REVELATION – A STEP PAST DISCERNMENT

“Who, while walking in the prophetic and when meeting people, first sees or senses the negative people are dealing with? If you do, it is because God is trusting you with His heart and asking you to speak the opposite. He wants you to call the gold out of them!” – Graham Cooke.

We are born with intuition and God created us with the ability to discern each other’s motives, hearts, gifts, talents and skills. BUT: When you can discern things, you are not necessarily getting a prophetic message or revelation. God uses our discernment gift more as a conversation starter. For everything you discern, there is a deeper, more original thought about it in God’s heart.

The moment we discern something, God wants us to go through that door and ask Him what to do about what we just discerned in the spirit. Then He can reveal His heart and share his thoughts about it. Discernment is also a relational tool to carry God's love to people. Anyone can discern something if they listen for a moment, but only Christians can consistently pursue the heart of God through His Spirit to hear what He is saying about their discernment. God wants to reveal hard things, not just happy things, but it is always for goodness.

Knowledge that is not married to love and spiritual awareness can become religious. The people who use their religion to police the world around them become some of the most unhappy and dangerous people on earth.

No one really needs the prophetic to point out where he is failing. We all know that we are weak. We don't need a good shaming to get better. We need hope and life. Jesus did not use revelation to shame anyone. He was always motivated to use revelation to build all individuals He encountered and show God's love for them. He spent time with people who were judged by others and He invited them to a place of spiritual importance through His investment in them.

God woke a prophet on February 1, 2001 and said: *"An earthquake is coming to Peru in June and it will destroy many buildings and houses. The enemy knows this and he wants to capitalize on it by killing thousands. Tell the churches in Peru to get ready, buy insurance, and help their people to be earthquake-proof."*

This prophet contacted church leaders in Peru and told them what he heard from God. Because they trusted him regarding his previous words, they acted on what he said. On June 24, 2001 the earthquake hit and devastated the country. Because the church prayed beforehand and was prepared, the death toll was minimal. Because they bought insurance for houses and churches, the church was a resource for their community.

But some church groups around the globe who thought that they

discerned correctly, said: You deserved this! Your sin brought this upon you. Etc. This was an anti-Jesus message and not discernment from God at all. God knew about all the sins and bad things that were happening, but still Jesus died for the people of Peru. And still God decided to warn His people in Peru because He loves them.

When you get discernment from God, are you willing to listen to the heart of our loving God before you speak? Are you willing to wait for revelation beyond your thoughts, feelings, and opinions? God wants to take what He showed you and reveal His heart and thoughts about it to you. Then you will be an ambassador of hope to the world around you.

NOSTRADAMUS

A very good example of a false prophet is Nostradamus, whom many Christians see as a prophet sent by God. Michel de Nostradame was a French astrologer who lived from 1503 to 1566. His mysterious, cryptic writings captured the world's attention since the 16th century. Many believe Nostradamus' writings hold the key to the understanding of the greatest events of the future. It is generally believed that he predicted:

- The French Revolution
- The rise of Napoleon
- The death of King Henry II of France
- That Felice Peretti would become Pope
- The assassination of Pres. John F Kennedy of the United States
- The bombing of the World Trade Center

Christians should know whether Nostradamus or any other prophet was sent by God. God does not want His children to be in doubt about those He sends.

Nostradamus was heavily involved in astrology and in the occult. He would sit for hours into the night meditating in a trance before a bowl of water. During these trances, Nostradamus would have

visions which he recorded in his Almanacs. Later he produced horoscopes for the French Royal family.

The facts above are more than enough proof that Nostradamus was not a prophet of God. Add to that the following evidence:

1. He never spoke God's Word.
2. He was involved in the occult.
3. His prophecies caused fear.
4. Many of these prophecies did not come to pass.
5. He was an astrologer.
6. He recorded only bad news.
7. His predictions were extremely vague, not giving places or times and it was mostly disguised in riddles.

Nostradamus was certainly not a prophet of God as defined by the Bible. Demons sometimes have a partial, but always twisted, knowledge of God's plans for the future and they want to use humans to deliver this twisted truth. Nostradamus was used by the devil to deceive many people over the last 450 years.

Only God knows the future and He uses true prophets of God who accurately prophesy about these events. God's Word never fails.

Do you think Nostradamus was prophesying from God or not? Why do you say that?

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HOW TO HANDLE FALSE PROPHECY

There is a difference between testing every prophetic word and criticizing every prophetic word and we should not confuse the two. The purpose of testing every prophecy is for the good.

Testing means to sift the good from the bad and hold on to the good.

To criticize everything is bad because it makes the person who criticizes the ultimate standard and judge without an external measuring stick.

A deep knowledge of the Word of God and an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit is vital if we want to discern what God is doing in His church today.

When we know that a prophetic word is false and not from God, we must always act with firmness in the love of God. Who the person is that delivers the false prophecy, and what the circumstances surrounding that person are, will also determine how you handle it.

If you receive a false word from a fellow believer who is not a leader over you, it is best to stop it in love as soon as you know it is a counterfeit word. You may interrupt the word politely but firmly with something like: “please stop” or “just a moment” or something like that. Then you can explain in love that in your experience this word is not from God. If you do not stop the word, it can have a very negative effect on your own spiritual life, because there is power in words. **Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat the fruit of it.**

If the word is from a leader, such as the pastor of the church, and it is in public, it is not good to rebuke him in front of everyone. Inside your heart you can put up a wall and softly say to yourself: I do not accept this word as from God, and this word will not penetrate my heart. Later, when you are alone with the leader, firmly and in love just tell him why you could not accept the word.

On the recommendation of a well-known leader we once allowed a ‘prophet’ from Cameroon to minister to some of our home cells. I attended some of his meetings and did not feel at ease – but I could not put my finger on it. Two nights before he was due

to preach at our main worship service, I had a warning from God in a dream about this man. I cancelled all appointments and spent time with God to make sure what He was saying. After about three hours, I felt to phone a prophetic friend just to have a second opinion.

The moment I stretched out my hand towards the phone, it started ringing. It was the prophetic friend. She confirmed that what I experienced was from God. I immediately phoned the person and in love explained that we have to cancel the proceedings.

Words can be weapons formed against us and these words can have spiritual forces behind them. In **Isaiah 54:17** God tells us to condemn those words: **No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.**

How will you handle it when somebody gives you a prophetic word that you discern is not from God?

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HOW TO HANDLE TRUE PROPHECY

What do you do when a prophetic word is spoken over your life? When a prophetic word comes to you and you know in your heart that it is a word from God, the following are guidelines how to handle such a prophetic word:

- **Be open to prophecy from God.**

Do not despise prophesying. Prove all things, hold fast to the good. (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21).

- **Judge or discern prophetic words.**

Discern if a prophetic word is from God by listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Also ask questions like: Does the Word agree with the Bible? Is it consistent with the character of God? Does the word resonate with me in my spirit? Do I trust the source? Does it glorify God?

We must take the responsibility to test the spirits and judge the prophetic words we have received. ***Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world. (1 John 4:1).***

- **Walk with God – then most prophecies will be a confirmation.**

If you are living in God's presence, He will constantly release plans for your future to you. Then most of the time prophetic words from other people will serve as a confirmation and to build you up for that which God has already revealed to you.

- **Do not build your life on a prophetic word.**

Build your life on the Word of God and have a high regard for the prophetic.

Most people that were hurt through a prophetic word built their whole life upon that word. There are so many things that could affect the outcome of this word. It could be interpreted as a word for the immediate circumstances, while God meant it as a word for the future. It could be that God connected certain preconditions to the word and that those conditions were not met. (For example: If you make your prayer life a priority, you will have encounters with God like you never thought possible.)

If the focus stayed upon God and not upon the prophetic word, there would be no hurt – only an expectation that God

will perform what He promised.

- **Expect the prophetic words to happen.**

Prophecies are always conditional. A true prophetic word will come to pass as long as you understand that there is a process that must be followed and implemented. When you receive a prophetic word, set aside enough time to pray about this word. Ask God to reveal any prerequisites that must be accomplished from your side before the word can be fulfilled. Expect from God that this word will come true.

- **Write down your prophecies.**

Show the Lord that you honor Him and that you have a high regard for it when He speaks to you. Write it down. Ink on paper or electronic memory is so much more dependable than the best human memory.

Jeremiah 30:2 So speaks the Lord, the God of Israel, saying, Write all the Words that I have spoken to you in a book.

Habakkuk 2:2 And the Lord answered me and said, Write the vision, and make it plain on the tablets, that he who reads it may run.

- **Ask the Lord for a verse from the Bible that confirms your prophetic word** and write that next to the word.

Then in faith, pray and speak that prophetic word into existence every day. **Jeremiah 1:12 And the Lord said to me, You have seen well; for I will watch over My Word to perform it.**

Every year I write God's prophetic words over my life, in my Bible. Next to each word I also write a verse from the Bible that confirms that word. Then I speak the prophetic word, as well as the Scripture, out loud, confirming it every day or as often as I can. God is so faithful! Most of those words are

fulfilled or partially fulfilled every year, because the power of life and death are in our tongues (**Proverbs 18:21**) and because God's Word can never return to Him void (**Isaiah 55:11**).

- **Have great faith.**

When you know your prophetic calling and destiny, you need to have big-thinking faith to reach the great heights that God has prepared for you. If your faith is not big, you will not hit the mark that God wants you to hit. **Mark 11:22-24** **And answering Jesus said to them, Have faith of God. For truly I say to you that whoever shall say to this mountain, Be moved and be cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he said shall occur, he shall have whatever he said. Therefore I say to you, All things, whatever you ask, praying, believe that you shall receive them, and it will be to you.**

In **2 Kings 4:3** Elijah said to the woman: **Go, borrow vessels for yourself from outside, from your neighbors, empty vessels. Do not let them be few.** It was her time to receive blessings from the Lord. However, when the vessels were full and there were no more vessels to fill, the miracle stopped. If she had brought more vessels, God would have filled every one of them too.

We need to have a high level of faith and a high level of expectation. Have a big appetite for the prophetic and the supernatural. God is looking for men and women who have great faith capacity for him to fill.

- **Complete the process.**

Many people think the prophetic word will come to pass the day after receiving it. But sometimes there are processes that you must go through before you arrive at your prophetic destination. Co-operate with the Spirit of God as He leads you through the process. Run this prophetic marathon so that

you will receive your medal at the end.

- **Share your prophecies only with special people.**

Don't share your precious, positive prophetic word that you received from God with people who are not spiritual or who are negative. They may try to discourage you and minimize what God has in store for you.

Share your precious prophetic word only when God releases you to, and only with those who are in close fellowship with you. Ask them to pray with you and to encourage you until God fulfills this prophetic word in your life.

- **Praise God continually.**

Real faith is to praise and worship God as if you have already received what you trust Him for. **Philippians 4:4-6 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice! ... Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.**

**REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:
PROPHETIC IDENTITY**

By completing this exercise, you will be able to see your purpose and destiny from a heavenly perspective, more clearly.

Take several personal prophecies that you know are from God. Type them out and underline all the words that you feel describe who you are. List these words or phrases in the spaces below:

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From the list of words and phrases above, compose three sentences that describe who God says you are. Start each sentence with “I am...”

I am

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PROCESS THE WORD YOU RECEIVED

Write out the last prophetic word you received and know is a true word from God.

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Circle any words that refer to who God says you are. This will help to clarify your identity.

Underline any promises in this word that you feel God is making to you.

Write out any conditions or requirements the prophetic word is asking you to fulfill.

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List any words or phrases that indicate timing or seasons.

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If there are words, ideas or themes that are repeated, write them down. Are there any themes that stand out?

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Now that you have more clarity about the word, write everything in your prophetic journal. Then make enough time today, and every day for the next week, to pray and to decree this prophetic word into existence.

You can do the same exercise with every prophetic word you received from God. When the word is fulfilled, praise God for it and write what God did under each of your prophetic words. That will become a lifestyle of testimonies of the great works that God is doing in your life.

Chapter 5

HOW TO DELIVER A PROPHETIC WORD

Look for the treasure, not for the trash.

PROPHETIC WORDS AND PROPHETIC PROCESS

What a wonderful privilege to be able to receive a prophetic word from the living God for His people. In chapter 1 we have seen that the prophetic message comes to us in a variety of forms. We looked at the Hebrew and Greek words that describe how God speaks to us. Then we saw how prophecy is received, the process of the prophetic and we looked at the fascinating dimensions of the prophetic.

You may perhaps look at other prophetic people and the way they deliver prophetic words and think: How will I ever be able to do it? Start with small steps and never underestimate the power of small encouragement or a seemingly insignificant utterance. God still uses words as seeds to bring in a big harvest.

Recently we were at a prophetic conference where everyone was challenged to speak prophetic words and words of knowledge to another person. After the exercise I saw a young lady who was very excited about what she had just experienced. I asked her about it and she said that it was the first time God used her in

this way. The next day at the same conference God showed me a picture of how He was going to use her prophetic words in the future. When I shared this small word with her, she was over the moon with the knowledge that God wants to use her in a prophetic way.

With prophetic words it often works like the Kingdom of heaven: **The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. Of all the seeds it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and find shelter in its branches. (Matthew 13:31-32).**

Many times God will speak to us in unusual ways because He wants to draw us closer to Him. He may use a vision, a dream, an impression, or some other phenomenon to get our attention. When we start investigating the meaning of what He said, God speaks to us and reveals His mysteries to us. Anything worth having is worth searching for. **Proverbs 25:2 The glory of God is to hide a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.**

Like Moses at the burning bush in **Exodus 3:1-4**, we sometimes have to turn aside to investigate the phenomenon that the Lord initiates in order to clearly hear His voice.

PROPHETIC PROTOCOL

Was Jesus punished enough? If the answer is yes, then there is no judgment in life – only the law of sowing and reaping – judge and you will be judged. – Graham Cooke.

Is very important to know what God is saying and to understand what it means. The presentation of that word to a person is just as important. We should always minister prophetically in a way that honors the Lord and His people. Prophecy does not just entail speaking God's mind; it also includes speaking with God's heart.

Like any other ministry, we have to allow opportunities for people

to grow in the prophetic. To have a mature prophetic ministry functioning in our congregations and in the church at large, we must first embrace immature prophetic people. We must provide a safe place for them to ‘try their wings’, so they will have a place in which to grow and mature.

We use small groups (according to God’s blueprint for our ministry) as a safe place for people to grow and mature. Everybody in the group can exercise how to flow in the prophetic under the loving guidance of a mature believer. This helps them to gradually become bolder in stepping out in faith.

In training the next generation of prophetic giants, it is very important to have a prophetic protocol about how it should be done. The following five points are some of the road signs on the prophetic highway:

1. **BE POSITIVE**

Anybody can see negative things in other people, but it takes true prophetic grace to see the positive. Criticism and creativity takes the same amount of energy, but the first is a poor use of imagination.

New Testament prophecy primarily centers on the ministry of encouragement and building up the other person. **1 Peter 4:10 As each of you has received a gift, employ it for one another as good trustees of God’s many-sided grace. Amplified.**

To test if a word is positive and encouraging, first try it out on yourself and see how you would like it if somebody spoke that word over you.

2. **BE BRIEF**

A prophetic word does not have to be long to be powerful. In most cases a single word or phrase will really stick in a person’s spirit. Deliver the word as clearly and concisely as you can. Do not try to teach or explain the prophetic word – just deliver it in love.

3. BE KIND

1 Corinthians 13 tells us that even if we are very gifted in the Spirit and can speak in tongues of men and angels, but it is without love, we are noisy gongs or clanging cymbals. If you have the most accurate prophetic gift, but it is without love, it means nothing.

To deliver a prophetic word with a scrunched-up face, a fiery tone or with harsh foreboding words does not make you more prophetic. When delivering a prophetic word, rather express God's love and kindness by a friendly smile and a gentle tone of voice. If you speak a word to a child, it helps to go on your knees, smile in love and be gentle in how you speak to the little one.

There are healthier contexts for delivering correction than through a prophetic word. Correction is better shared in a context of relational conversation (**Matthew 18:15**). And it is so much easier to bring a word of correction to somebody into whose life you already made significant deposits. Then you don't withdraw more than you have deposited and become relationally overdrawn.

"I died in 1973. My heart stopped. I was brought before Jesus and he only asked me one thing. Did you learn to love, Bob?" – Bob Jones.

4. BE HUMBLE

Sometimes you may miss the mark with a prophetic word and missing does not make you a false prophet. If you miss, clean up your mess, apologize from your heart, and move on.

Be teachable, don't defend yourself, and never insist that you are right. If you were right in something you delivered, God will make it happen in time.

Always be humble. Partner with Jesus in humility. ***Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle***

(meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. (Matthew 11:29.)

5. BE BOLD

Prophecy is an adventure and all adventurers have risk. – Graham Cooke.

Somebody said: Faith is spelled R-I-S-K. Be willing to take chances in the prophetic. Many people miss supernatural opportunities because what comes to them seems too natural or too simple to act on it. Many prophetic impressions may come as a thought picture that quickly passes by. Only when we act upon it continuously, do we grow in realizing that it is God speaking when it happens.

One of the most beautiful qualities of great prophetic people is their transparency in the face of uncertainty. I was doing a wedding ceremony with a wonderful prophetic friend of mine and she released the most astonishing and accurate prophetic words over the couple. Afterwards she turned to me and asked: “Do you think what I said was OK? I was not so sure about it.” I just smiled at her and told her it was very powerful and accurate, because I knew the couple very closely.

What prophetic protocol can a person follow who is starting out on the prophetic journey?

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HOW TO PROPHECY WHAT YOU SEE, HEAR OR EXPERIENCE

As we have seen, God can use both internal and external vision to inspire a genuine prophetic word. God can give you movie-like visions or snap-shot pictures of what He wants to say. You

can receive these through open-eye visions or through closed-eye visions and neither is more important than the other.

So what do you do with what you see?

- ***Ask Holy Spirit how He wants you to react.***

In the beginning phase of the prophetic lifestyle most people are so excited about what God is saying that they just want to blurt it out. But many times God will entrust you with something to just pray about. We only speak out a prophetic word when God says so, and at the time He wants us to release it. Then the anointing of the Holy Spirit will rest upon your words.

- ***Just share the vision or picture and leave the rest to God***

If you did not receive any interpretation or application, you just deliver what you received. God will fill in the detail. Never interpret or apply in the flesh what God has not specifically said. Many times God has already prepared the heart of the person who receives the word and he or she will know exactly what God is saying.

- ***Ask permission to release the word.***

If it is in a church setting and you are not the senior Pastor, ask permission from the leadership. If they don't allow you, your responsibility ends there. You never force anything; you just continue to pray in private for the person for whom you received the word.

If the leadership allows you to speak the word, also ask permission from the person to whom you are speaking. If that person does not allow you to prophesy, you have done your part. The rest is in the hand of God.

- ***Share in humility what you experience.***

If you are allowed to prophesy, do it in humility. Never say something like: Thus says the Lord! Who can argue against something like that?

- ***Leave the results with the person who received the word and to God who will make the word come true.***

When you delivered the word, you were obedient. Never inquire about it or try to make them react to the prophetic word. That is the work of the Holy Spirit of God.

Do you feel that these basic guidelines for delivering a prophetic word can become part of your prophetic lifestyle?

WRITING PROPHECY

Written words have shaped the mindsets of generations and turned the course of nations. – Dan McCollam.

Among all written words, none compares with the Bible: **For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12).**

The words of the Bible are very powerful in prophecy. No wonder Jesus quoted from the Old Testament 78 times in His public ministry. The preaching of Jesus is so laced with prophecy, that it is impossible to separate the two. The public ministry of Jesus validates the use of Scripture as a way of delivering a prophetic word.

Memorizing Scripture is a great way of preparing yourself for your prophetic ministry. Some of the most profound prophetic words delivered, were introduced by a quotation from Scripture that was then applied to the life of the receiver and elaborated on by adding the rest of the content God has given. It is always a great idea to ask God for a Scripture to confirm the word you received, because the Word of God can never return empty **(Isaiah 55:11).**

But there is another way you can use a written prophetic word. When you write down the word you received from God and read it out when you prophesy over somebody, it gives them something to

hold on to and to refer back to. They immediately have the content available to pray over and to speak into existence in their lives.

One of the most amazing experiences I had with written prophecy happened in an Open Heavens conference in the USA. Shawn Bolz was ministering. He wrote down what God spoke to him before the service and he was sharing what he experienced. He said it was a word for somebody from South Africa. Then he asked one of the South African men who attended the conference to please join him on the stage. He asked what language the South Africans speaks, and the man said: Afrikaans.

Then Shawn asked if the following writing made any sense to him: The South African read two sentences in perfect Afrikaans although Shawn never spoke one word Afrikaans in his life. After that the South African had to read two names. The names were in Sotho – one of the eleven languages spoken in South Africa. The Afrikaans word was for a Sotho Pastor from South Africa and it was 100% spot-on. You can just imagine the impact such a written word had on that Sotho Pastor. He will never in his life be able to forget it.

With social media we are constantly connecting with people through written communication. We use email, cell phone texting, and other ways to make contact. If used correctly this can be a mighty tool for prophecy. We just have to keep it short and not bombard all our broadcast lists every day word prophetic words – that can make people resistant towards what you want to communicate. Rather ask God for whom this specific message is and then send it to that person. You may want to start with something like this: I was praying this morning and I felt God speaking something for you...

ACTIVATE YOUR WRITTEN PROPHECY

For the next 2 weeks during your time with the Lord, ask Him to show you a new verse to memorize every day. Also write the verse on a piece of paper that you will carry with you. Then ask the Lord to show you a person with whom you can share this verse as a trigger to a prophetic word.

Every evening write down the rest of the prophetic word that God gave you.

After 2 weeks, make enough time to work through all the words you received the past 2 weeks. Ask God to use this as one of the ways that He is giving you prophetic words as a lifestyle.

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When receiving any Bible verse or short prophetic word during these two weeks, ask the Lord to whom you can text, mail or broadcast it. Just do it.

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PROPHETIC EVANGELISM

Prophecy can be part of our supernatural tool belt for sharing the good news of Jesus. – Dan McCollam.

In the New Testament times prophecy was not only to encourage believers. It was also a tool to reach unbelievers. **1 Corinthians 14:24-25 tells us: But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.**

People today are hungrier than ever before to experience the supernatural. Just look at how many visit psychics, witches, gypsies, etc. Movies about power and magic are pulling thousands

of people. We as believers should walk in the power and love of God every day of our lives. In **1 Corinthians 2:4** Paul says that he doesn't want to persuade people with words only, but with a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit!

After Pentecost the prophetic is available for all believers, as part of our supernatural heritage. It is part of your supernatural tool belt to reach the lost.

Groups of people go to malls and coffee shops, receive words of knowledge for strangers they meet there and those people are touched and transformed by the love of God. When a word of knowledge is followed by a prophetic encouragement or by supernatural healing from God, it opens people to receive Jesus Christ into their lives as Lord and Savior.

To be a sharp instrument to be used by God, we must be prepared to be ready all the time. **1 Peter 3:15** encourages us: **Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope that is in you, but do it courteously and respectfully.**

You can prepare yourself to always be ready by meditating on ways in which you can share prophetic encouragement with others. Read over the activations throughout this book and do them over and over again until you are naturally flowing in prophetic encouragement. Then it is time to train your disciples to do the same.

STREETWISE ENCOURAGEMENT

This exercise will help prepare you to speak to people on the streets in a language they understand.

Let someone record on a whiteboard, as the group calls out phrases that are used by Christians all the time, but are not necessarily clearly understood by unbelievers.

Two volunteers now come to the front of the room. They are to prophesy over each other, but without using Christianese

(the language most Christians use).

Every time one of them uses a Christianese term, the group is to react to show them it is not in order. Afterwards every group member is to record the list of phrases that may not be used so that they may study it.

This exercise can be repeated several times before venturing into the streets with prophetic encouragements.

Write down a few of these Christianese slogans.

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PERSONAL TREASURE HUNT

Each day can be an adventure in prophetic evangelism. You can do personal treasure hunts to increase the number of divine appointments in your daily routine.

While you are separating yourself to spend time with the Lord every morning, ask Him for clues about people's names, appearance, and prayer needs. Write down what you experience & take it with you to work.

Pray that these ministry opportunities will realize during your normal daily routine at work, school, or in the neighborhood.

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PROPHETIC GIVING

Giving, combined with prophetic insight, yields exponentially great and powerful results in both the giver and the receiver.

Prophecy does not start with hearing or seeing something profound that you have to deliver. It always starts with living in the presence of God and stepping into open heavens. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will prompt you to do a prophetic act of giving. Obeying this nudging of the Holy Spirit can start powerful benefits for both the giver and the receiver!

Giving is a Biblical principal demonstrated throughout the entire Bible. **Proverbs 18:16** tells us: **A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.**

Dan McCollam distinguishes three areas of prophetic giving: A need gift; a seed gift; and a love gift.

A need gift is given specifically and strategically to a need that the Holy Spirit is putting on your heart. This giving includes more than money. It can be giving your time to serve an elderly person, it can be to pay the bill for somebody in the restaurant, or anything regarding giving that the Holy Spirit clearly prompts you to do. If it is money, the amount to be given may be known or unknown. **Romans 12:6-8** also list giving as one of the motivational gifts.

One evening we were gathering for a celebration as a ministry. Earlier we shared that we need prayer for finances to come in for our outreach to a certain country. That evening I was not sharing the Word – I was just enjoying the fellowship with God and the friends around me.

The next moment a person sitting across the aisle from me bent over and asked: How much do still need for your trip? I called out a fairly large amount still outstanding. He said that he will pay the amount into my account.

Later on he shared with me that they had already set aside the exact amount we needed, having been prompted by the Holy Spirit to do so. I was so blessed that God provided the large amount, exactly as I needed, and I believe God is blessing that person financially for what he is doing. From that month onwards this man gives a large amount of money every month to enable us to bring the Good News to the nations of the earth.

A seed gift refers to sowing into something you believe in. Often people sow a seed into an area where they would like to see a return one day. It is important to notice that you don't sow to receive and you don't sow to try and manipulate God. You sow because the Holy Spirit speaks to you about it. But we also know that we can never out-give God. **Luke 6:38** promises us: **Give, and [gifts] will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will they pour into the bosom [of your robe and used as a bag]. For with the measure you deal out, it will be measured back to you.** *Amplified.*

Many times when a gifted speaker visits us, the Holy Spirit will just softly nudge me to give everything in my wallet as a seed towards the gifting that the speaker carries. Nobody else will know it, but I just do it in obedience and to receive something of that same gifting on my life.

At times when you really need money for an outreach or to do something in the Kingdom, and you only have a small amount of money available, you can sow the money you have as seed into a similar project somewhere. Then prayerfully ask God to give you a harvest on that seed. It always happens.

A love gift is not based upon a need or upon a specific cause. It is given as a statement of love, honor, appreciation or blessing. When such a love gift is given as a prophetic act, it can unleash tremendous power.

Such a love gift can carry the blessing and intent of the one who gave it to the one who receives it. It works the same as Paul's handkerchiefs and aprons that carried a blessing of power.

And God did unusual and extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, So that handkerchiefs or towels or aprons which had touched his skin were carried away and put upon the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. (Acts 19:11-12).

A friend of mine is a true Kingdom Giver. He is a chartered accountant and also the CFO of our ministry. So many times when there is a need in a certain area or in a specific person's life, Jacques will hear so clearly about the amount needed to be sown. And so many times I have just been in tears because I saw the tears and the breakthrough it brought when somebody was listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit as to when to give and how much to give a specific person. And when you sow in obedience to God, you can never out-give Him. Although we never give to receive, the Biblical principle stands firm: Seed sown into the right soil, will always produce an abundant harvest.

A prophetic gift can be a breaker tool to break down resistance and open opportunities to manifest Jesus and His Kingdom. As a seed, prophetic giving can release exponential increase and limitless possibilities.

A PROPHETIC GIFT

Pray that God will show you a friend or a family member to whom you can give a prophetic gift. Prepare a small gift that will really bless that person. Also pray for a word of prophetic encouragement to give with the gift. Write out the word on a nice card and include it in the gift.

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PROPHETIC SOWING

Spend some time with the Lord. Identify one of your biggest dreams yet to be fulfilled. It might be a business you want to start, or finding a mate, or having a child. It might be a building that you need or a school you want to start.

Write down this dream or vision. Then ask God to show you somebody with a similar vision or dream. Pray over the gift or the amount you want to sow into that dream. Now name your seed, e.g. the school I want to start. In prayer, tell God that you are sowing this seed in His Kingdom and ask Him to please give you a harvest to fulfill your dream according to His goodness.

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CHANGE THE ATMOSPHERE

Ask God to show you a family member, co-worker, or friend whom He really wants to touch – somebody who does not yet know the Lord. Then ask God to show you a gift that will be meaningful to the person receiving it. Try to choose a gift with no obvious spiritual meaning. Choose something the person will see or wear every day, like jewelry, a painting, a key holder, clothing, etc.

Now take this gift to your prayer closet and pray over it every day. Speak prophetically into the person's life without him knowing it. Lay hands on the item and pray for salvation and a love relationship with the Lord. Soak the gift with the presence of the Lord while you worship God and commune with Him. Ask God to anoint this gift like He did with the handkerchiefs and aprons that touched Paul's body.

When you hand over the gift, don't say anything about the

spiritual preparation over it and don't prophecy while you give the gift. Just share the gift in love and watch the space to see what God is going to do with this prophetic gift.

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PROPHECY OVER CITIES, REGIONS & NATIONS

Displace darkness by displaying light over geographic regions – Dan McCollam.

Old Testament prophets often spoke prophetically over cities, regions and nations. This type of prophecy was called the 'oracles of God' and we find at least fourteen examples of it in the books of the prophets.

Jesus also prophesied over cities during His public ministry. In **Matthew 23:37** He says: **O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused!** And in **Matthew 11:21** Jesus prophesied over cities like Korazin and Bethsaida.

Because Christ has taken the judgment and penalty for sin, we can now prophesy destiny and blessings over nations. In doing so we follow the same guidelines as in **1 Corinthians 14:3** where we read that prophecy is to strengthen, encourage, and comfort those who hear it.

Many times when we fly into nations or drive into cities, God will show us a picture or speak to us about the spiritual condition of the area. That is a trigger for us to start speaking life into that area. When we flew into a small country well-known for its

beaches and holiday resorts, God showed me the negative spirit operating in that country. Instead of prophesying against the negative, I will call out the opposite – what God actually wants to see established in the country. When you are spreading the light, darkness cannot stay.

God invites us in **Psalm 2:8** to ask for the nations: **Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations as Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth as Your possession.** Jesus commanded us to make disciples of all nations (**Matthew 28:19**). Let us continue to prophesy over individuals, but let's be bold enough also to prophesy encouragement over cities, regions and nations.

BLESS YOUR CITY

Make time to listen to what God is saying about your city and write down what you see, hear and experience.

Gather a group of believers who share your heart for the city. Now start declaring what you have written down over your city. (You may do that from a strategic building or from a mountain top overlooking your city.)

Take turns in speaking prophetic blessings over your city. When God gives new revelation, add that to what you have already written down.

Repeat this action monthly or quarterly and keep it before God in your daily time with Him.

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PRAYER FOR A NATION

Ask the Lord if He wants to give you a specific nation to

pray for. Gather information regarding that nation, like maps, population, percentage people belonging to certain religions, etc. Listen to the news about what is currently happening there.

You may put down a map at your place of prayer to be able to lay hands on the map and to know what cities to intercede for. Or you might put some traditional material about that nation at the place where you are regularly praying.

Now ask the Lord to speak to you prophetically about that nation and the people groups in it. Journal what God shows you and pray about it regularly. Perform prophetic actions on behalf of that nation if God leads you to.

Keep track of media coverage regarding what is happening in that nation. Many times you will find a close correlation to what you spoke prophetically and what is happening on ground level in that nation.

If possible, save some money and visit that nation. That will give you much more insight into the culture and the spiritual needs of the people and it will also enhance the accuracy of your prayers for that nation in the years to come.

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Although the majority of people on this planet are longing to hear an authentic word from God, many people today are skeptical and don't have a high expectation of prophetic gifts. This is due to a severe lack of Biblical accountability by many who

flow in some kind of prophetic gifting as well as self-proclaimed 'prophets'. People like this may believe they hear directly from God and they may believe that when they deliver a prophetic word, the church or the person prophesied over must accept that word or bear the wrath of God. Most of the time they don't have a real relationship with the person or people over whom they are prophesying and many times they prophesy out of the dark realm of judgment. That is why there is so much hurt and skepticism surrounding prophecy today.

How do we prevent this hurt from happening and how do we turn the tide so that people will hear the authentic love from God through the prophetic and fall on their faces in awe before such a wonderful God?

When we look at what the Bible says about the prophetic, it is always functioning from a congregational background. The body is not only receiving the prophetic, but they have a responsibility to weigh and test if the word is from God.

1 Corinthians 14:29 So let two or three prophets speak, while the rest pay attention and weigh and discern what is said.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world.

When the New Testament speaks of the office of a Prophet, it is always somebody functioning within the rest of the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:11** also speaks of the Prophet as part of the 5-fold ministry team of the ministry. That means that they function as a team together in equipping the saints and they carry relational responsibility towards God, each other, and towards the people to whom they prophesy or whom they equip for ministry.

When **I Timothy 3** tells us what the requirements are for leaders in the church, it explicitly says that they must not be novices in the faith, but people with a good reputation with all.

To stop the negative tide regarding the prophetic and restore it to a fresh Biblical function where God will be glorified and His people blessed by the prophetic, the following are extremely important:

- People flowing in the prophetic and prophets should belong to and have accountability towards a Christian body of believers.
- It is preferable that Prophets should be recognized by Christian leadership and it is good if they are part of a 5-fold ministry team somewhere.
- Prophetic people should be trained in Word and practice to operate in a sound Biblical way.
- Mentoring upcoming prophetic people is a Biblical way of discipleship, growth and on-the-job training that will secure Biblical standards of operating in the prophetic.
- Prophets and prophetic people must be accountable to a local leadership and where they function in another ministry setting, they must be trained to submit to that specific leadership where they are allowed to operate.
- It is important that we keep prophetic ministers and people who prophesy accountable for their relational skills towards people, not just for their prophetic words.
- If there are question marks about what a prophetic person prophesies, there must be an established guideline for how it is to be handled in love, to ensure that people are protected.

On the other hand, it is also important to train believers to take up their own responsibility when receiving a prophetic word from somebody. We all can hear directly from God and we should all be able to discern if a word is from God or not. If you feel that the word is not applicable, there are ways in which you can lovingly mention that you don't receive the word, but still love and honor the person who is delivering it.

PARAMETERS FOR PROPHECY IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Some mistakes in the prophetic are born out of immaturity, but

others spring from a lack of instruction about how to minister prophetically. Steve Thompson provides seven parameters for administering prophecy in the local church. These parameters can help to ensure that our words will build and encourage rather than devastate.

1. Your level of authority

This is about the tendency of some prophetic people to prophesy beyond the realm of their authority. In other words, they tend to prophesy about things they should not, or in a way they should not.

If my next-door neighbor comes into my yard and sees my children do something that they should not do and he starts to discipline my children, then he will be out of order. However, if I ask my neighbor to care for my children when I am out of town, I will give him limited authority to discipline my children because he is responsible for them during that time.

Many prophetic people think they have authority to speak into any situation for which they receive prophetic insight. This is not the case. If you have no responsibility in a local congregation, then you have no real authority in that congregation.

When I travel and minister in different congregations, I always submit to the authority of the leadership. I will only prophesy what God shows if they give me the permission to do so and even then I will not prophesy about issues that could cause harm or disunity in the congregation. I would rather speak to the pastor or the leadership in private afterwards regarding such an issue. I will only handle it in public if they want me to.

2. Your level of revelation

It is important to present revelation on the same level we received it. When we minister prophetically, we are like ambassadors representing our King. We must not misrepresent the Lord, but speak just like it was spoken to us.

If you receive an impression, which is a valid type of revelation,

and tell someone: “God spoke to me about you”, you have prophesied inaccurately. You should say something like: “I have an impression in my spirit that” On the other hand, when God speaks audibly to us, we should tell people exactly that: “God spoke to me.”

We train people never to say: ‘Thus says the Lord.’ Who can argue against such a word? It is much safer to say: “I feel that ...” or “I experience” or “I sense that ...”

3. Your level of understanding

We must prophesy according to our level of understanding. A person might receive a slight impression or a gentle vision from God, but try to give a very detailed prophetic message beyond his understanding. This is wrong and untrue and can keep people from receiving the real message from God.

Steve Thompson uses the very striking example of a kangaroo. After giving people some prophetic training in a certain congregation, Steve released the group to minister to a young lady from a nearby town who volunteered to receive prophetic ministry from others. Many of them shared wonderful prophetic words that the Lord gave them for her. At the end of the ministry time, a man in the back said that he received a picture, but he was unsure what it meant. He simply said that he had seen a picture of a kangaroo while he was praying.

The entire group erupted in laughter at this picture because it seemed out of place. People began making jokes about kangaroos and were talking loudly amongst themselves while the man sat back in his chair, somewhat embarrassed by the reaction.

Trying to restore some order, Steve turned to the lady and asked if she had ever been to Australia. She replied that she had been a missionary in Australia for two years and had lived on a ranch there. The owner of the ranch had a pet kangaroo that would follow her around everywhere she went.

She was back in the United States now, looking for direction from the Lord. A hush came over the crowd as the fear of God fell in the room. This simple prophetic word about a kangaroo propelled her onto the journey God had in mind for her life.

4. Your level of faith

Another parameter to abide by, when prophesying, is not to go beyond our level of faith. In **Romans 12:6** we read: **Then having gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, if prophecy, according to the proportion of faith.**

God can use us to prophesy on any level He chooses, but generally we will grow gradually in the area of our grace. As a general rule, we should probably not expect God to give us the intimate details of someone's life history when we first begin ministering prophetically. We will probably begin on a decidedly lower level and this is just fine. It is a growth process into prophetic maturity.

When I started ministering prophetically, I usually stood at the back of the building while the people were worshipping and then God would show me fire on someone's head, for example. If that was all that I saw, that would be all that I would say. The rest is up to God and that person. Other times God would show me a lady with a shining face and tell me to prophesy that God is going to visit her in the night. Then that would be the word that I would prophesy.

Later, God started giving me a prophetic word for congregations. I remember one evening while we were driving to a church in Takoradi, a city in Ghana, God opened His heart to me. God said He was weeping over the congregations in Takoradi. Although everybody in the city knew about God, they were not living in a love relationship with Him. Many of them were living in sin and lukewarm love for God. God wanted me to tell His people how much He loved them. As a loving Father, He wanted them to come back to their first love. I was so touched that I was crying the whole time while I was bringing this prophetic message of love to the people.

Sometimes when we fly to a nation and sometimes even while the plane is touching down, God starts revealing a prophetic message for this nation. Even when God shows us things like a spirit of poverty, sexual perversity, or a stronghold of ancestral spirits, He always reveals it with a heart full of love. He wants to see His people set free and He wants to bring them into a life of abundance.

We should always prophesy in faith. For example, if God shows you through a word of knowledge that someone is sick, then you should not simply tell him: “The Lord has shown me that you have an illness” and leave it at that. We must understand God’s heart and that He desires to heal. We can immediately pray in faith and see people healed of their diseases.

When we ministered in Mauritius one time, the lady in front of me complained about pain in the stomach and also about a headache. God told me that He will first heal the headache. When the pain in her head is gone, that will be the sign to this woman that God is also going to heal her stomach. I could have prophesied these words to her and gone on to the next person, but then I would have missed God’s heart of compassion for this lady. I immediately put faith into this prophetic word and ministered God’s wonderful healing to her.

5. Mitigated by love.

And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2 NAS).

Prophecy is bringing a message from God, but we must never forget that we are speaking to His children. In **Revelation 19:10** John records that **“the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”** The testimony of Jesus is God’s sacrificial love for mankind. Therefore, all prophetic ministries must always be motivated by God’s love and the people must experience this love of God.

I once ministered to a young man in Durban, South Africa. He was blind in one eye because of an accident. While I was ministering to his eye, God showed me that this young man never had a father figure in his life. When I gently asked him about it, he confirmed that he never knew his father and that he had a deep longing in his heart to have a father. With his permission I just hugged him and held him close like a father would hug his son. Both of us were crying. I don't know whether God healed his eye or not, but I clearly remember the love of God touching this young man.

6. Impart hope

In **1 Corinthians 13**, Paul says that there are three eternal virtues: faith, hope, and love. Our ministry to the body of Christ should contain each of these qualities. Every prophetic word we give should also impart hope from God into people's lives.

7. Minister in humility.

We must minister prophetically from a position of humility. Many people who have gone before us prophetically have made mistakes by misrepresenting God's heart. It is important that we recover the spirit of prophecy, which is love expressed in humility.

When I minister to a child in front of me, I do not stand over him and deliver God's Word. I kneel down in front of him, positioning myself lower than him, if possible, so that he will not feel intimidated. I will also smile when I prophesy or minister healing to him, because I want to communicate God's love to him.

When I minister healing to people, I will ask them permission to lay my hands on them. We must be an expression of God's gentleness and love towards them.

After delivering the prophetic word from God, just leave it there. Do not put pressure on anybody or try to make sure they respond to the prophetic word. The prophet is only sent

to deliver the word. Only God can bring action to those words through His Spirit.

KINGDOM POWER THROUGH A PROPHETIC WORD

Words carry tremendous power. God created the universe by using only words. God put great power in the words of man when He created them. **Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat the fruit of it.**

When we receive a prophetic word from God and speak that word in obedience, the power of God is released through those words into the atmosphere.

Just think about it in this way: Every Christian carries the Kingdom of God inside him/her. Jesus said in **Luke 17:21: Behold, the kingdom of God is within you.** (The word 'within' is the Greek word *entos* which means: inside.)

In some or other way the Kingdom of God is also upon us. **Luke 11:20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, no doubt the kingdom of God has come on you.** According to this verse one of the signs of the Kingdom of God is to operate in God's power by casting out devils and setting people free.

One of the principles of the Kingdom of God is that it must grow. It can never be stagnant. **Matthew 13:31 The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.**

Matthew 13:33 He spoke another parable to them: The kingdom of Heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened.

Jesus promised His disciples enormous power to be witnesses for Him. **Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit**

coming upon you. **And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.** The word for ‘power’ here is the Greek word *dunamis*, meaning: “miracle working power” to be witnesses for God.

In **Ephesians 1:19-20** Paul is speaking of another kind of power that all believers carry: **And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places].**

Here the Greek word *dunamis* is used again, but added to it is another Greek word for power, the word *kratos*. *Kratos* means resurrection power – the power to bring dead people back to life. Not only do we have this awesome power available to us, we also have an authority that surpasses any authority on earth. Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father – the position of absolute authority. **1 Peter 3:22 Jesus Christ; who is at the right hand of God, having gone into Heaven, where the angels and authorities and powers are being subjected to Him.**

We as believers are seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places (**Ephesians 2:6**). While we are walking on earth, we are at the same time also seated in a position of absolute power with Christ Jesus – at the right hand of God, so in the spiritual realm we carry authority to rule on earth.

When Jesus said in **Luke 10:19** “**Behold, I give to you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the authority of the enemy**”, the word ‘authority’ is the Greek word *exousia* which means delegated authority or power. God delegated – handed over to us – His power here on earth.

With this background of God’s power resting upon us and on

our words, you can understand why Jesus could easily say in **John 14:12 Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father.**

Can you see yourself in this picture? God created us with power in our words. When we speak His prophetic words to a person or into a situation, life-changing possibilities are created. We carry the Kingdom of God inside of us everywhere we go: a Kingdom that will expand wherever it is planted. We carry the miracle-working power and the resurrection power of this Kingdom in us and into every place we enter.

With that we also carry the delegated authority of God in us. Darkness and the forces of the enemy will bow down when we speak. Sickness and disease will go. We will take ground for God and the Kingdom will expand because the power of God is in us.

***Are you willing and ready to be an ambassador for God?
Are you ready to speak His prophetic words and to carry His kingdom power to people who desperately need it?***

REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:

A WORD EVERY DAY

Every morning for the next 30 days, ask the Lord to give you a prophetic word for at least one person that day. The word may come from the Bible during your quiet time with God. Or it could be a prophetic word for the day.

Ask God to show you the person and ask the Lord to give you so much love for the person, that you will deliver the word in an encouraging and positive way. When you speak to the person, ask permission to share something and start your message with something like: I think

Every evening write in your journal what the word was that God has given you, to whom you gave it and what that

person's reaction was to what you said.

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CREATIVE PROPHETIC WRITING

This type of written prophecy works well with people who will not normally be open to a prophetic word, and also for unbelievers.

Ask the Lord to give you a short story, a poem, a song or an encouraging thought to write down on a nice card. Carry this card with you wherever you go and ask the Lord to show you the person to whom it is to be given.

When the situation presents itself, you can share the content of the card in a very informal way, by saying something like: "I wrote a little something the other day and wondered if you want to read it?"

If the person reacts in a positive way, you may add: "I felt God led me to write this specifically for you."

Many times this will make a real connection with that person that may lead to deeper conversations on spiritual matters later on.

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ANONYMOUS PROPHETIC LETTER

Tell the group: You are going to write a letter to somebody

in this group whom God will show you later – you don't know at this stage who the person is. Get your pen and paper ready.

Then silently wait upon the Lord to hear His voice and to hear the message He wants to give to the anonymous person. Now take time to write the prophetic word on the paper.

Announce to everyone that the mystery prophetic word they received is actually for them personally.

This exercise shows that you are not only able to hear prophetic words for other people, but you can also hear what God wants to say about your own life. Repeat this process regularly and always journal what God is saying by adding the date it happened. This will be a powerful guideline of how God is taking you deeper into your purpose and destiny.

Take a few minutes and write down what you experience God is saying to you now.

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GUIDELINES FOR EXERCISING YOUR PROPHETIC GIFT

You may want to start a prophetic session every week or once a month where people can just come and receive a word of encouragement from a group of people who were trained and are flowing in the prophetic gifting.

When you are prophesying over people, that came specifically for a prophetic word, these are some of the Core Values for the prophetic that you may want to share with the people before they get into the prophetic groups

where 2 or 3 people will prophecy over them:

God is good. He always has good things to say. That is the heart from where we are prophesying. So expect to hear good news today.

We are not going to call out your sins and in this session, nor are we going to give you correction or rebuke. We are offering you the gift of prophecy which is encouragement, edification, exhortation, and comfort. (1 Corinthians 14:3).

When we deliver a prophetic word, we will be positive, brief, kind, humble, and bold.

You are going to feel encouraged and strengthened. You are going to experience how God sees you and how He feels about you – and you are going to be drawn closer to His heart.

We make the distinction between the gift of prophecy and the office of a prophet. What you are going to experience now is the gift of prophecy flowing through ordinary believers.

We encourage you to receive the word you are getting today if it resonates with your spirit. Please don't base any life changing decisions on this word. Rather listen to the whole spectrum of what God is saying to you – not only to this word of today. This word may confirm or strengthen what God already is saying to you.

We want to affirm your freedom and your responsibility as a believer to choose what you decide to receive and what you choose to leave behind. All of us are still growing in our gifting. We are taking risks and we are stepping out in faith – so we might not always be accurate and we want to be first to admit that.

We ask that you hold your prayer lists close to your heart. Don't share that with the team now. Please refrain from asking any

of our team members to hear on your behalf about something you are busy with. That sometimes makes it more difficult to hear directly from God if we try to hear about a specific thing you are asking.

Plus: It is really a lot of fun to hear from God through somebody who really knows nothing about you and still speaks God's heart regarding those areas for which you are trusting Him.

We really value your feedback. Please be so kind as to complete the feedback form before you leave and drop it on the table at door. On the form you are welcome to tell us how you experienced the flow of the prophetic and how accurate the words that you received were. Did it connect to you or not? It provides us with a great way to learn and also to be encouraged about how God is using us. We also want to learn from our mistakes.

We want to steward the words that God is giving us for you. That is why we are recording the words and we will email it to you. If you have your own recording device, we encourage you to use that too, so that you will immediately have the word available to listen to it again. When you fill in your forms, please write your email address in such a way that we will be able to read it? Please save the word you receive in a place where you will have continual access to it.

Some of the prophetic words that you may receive today will be:

Confirming words: These are similar to words of knowledge – facts that are already happening in your life or a word that was already spoken over you. It is faith building when you hear that God knows the details of your life. It also creates faith to receive other kind of prophetic words because now you trust the people speaking it.

Foretelling words: It tells you the future – pulling back the curtain and giving you a glimpse of something that is already waiting for you in the future.

Forth-telling words: It declares events in the mind of God regarding a person, people, places, or events. It can be facts about the present or taking facts like the written Word of God as a launching pad to proclaim God's heart for the present situation. It has the creative power to create something that was not there before. It may be a word that creates an income that you did not have before, or a word that creates faith to take a step you know God wants you to take. God wants to create through our words.

Although we invite you to co-labor and co-create with God to see these things happen, please don't feel any pressure or responsibility on your part to make things happen regarding the word you receive today. We do encourage you to dialogue with Holy Spirit and ask Him how He wants you to respond to what you receive today. God wants to take your hand and help you get into the place He spoke over you today. It is a road full of fun and full of grace from God.

It will really help you to set aside a few hours to be in God's presence as soon as possible after this session. Ask God to show you how to react upon the word you receive. Write the word down and read it a few times underlining and encircling the words or phrases that stand out for you. If there was no Scripture given with the word, you may want to ask God for Scriptures that confirms your word. Write the scripture next to your word, because you know that according to Jeremiah 1:12 and Isaiah 55:11, God will watch over this word to perform it. His Word will accomplish the purpose for which it was sent. You may want to make time every day for the next month to speak this word into existence.

We bless you to receive all that God has for you!

Very soft worship music can play in the background while the groups deliver the words God is speaking through them.

Chapter 6

PR ACTICAL PROPHETIC WISDOM

Criticism comes from the accuser. Conviction comes from the Spirit of truth. I never listen to the accuser, nor do I want to be his echo. – Bob Hazlett.

When you experience the prophetic ministry the way God intended it to be, it is one of the most exciting ministries you can think of. Heavens are open, the supernatural becomes natural and people are uplifted and are filled with new hope. Every time God shows you a new picture, whispers into your ear, or surprises you with fresh new visions and dreams, you just marvel at the greatness of the God we worship.

On the other hand, there are many people in the church today who were hurt through the prophetic ministry. Many had such high hopes, but nothing materialised. Others trusted in a word that was given but it never came true. This was never part of God's plans for His children. He never wanted to harm us or cause disappointment through the prophetic. God wants to give us peace, hope and a great future (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

Many of the disappointments and negative experiences could be avoided if people flowing in the prophetic had been trained to administer the prophetic in wisdom and in a Biblical way. Sometimes a word will be given in such a way that people may

think it will happen today or within the next week. We must help the people to understand that some prophetic words will become reality in a very short time, but other words may take a lifetime to fulfil. We just have to continue believing it.

People bringing the prophetic word must help those receiving it to understand that a prophetic word might be conditional. Do the people receiving the word believe it, pray it into existence and speak life into it every day until it comes true?

In this short chapter we want to touch upon a few things that can help us to deliver the prophetic words that God is placing in our hearts, in such a way that the people receiving them will experience God's love and encouragement through the prophecies. It will help us to bring God's Word in such a way that the people will also experience God's heart. That will build the body of Christ in a positive way.

Nuggets to keep in mind while you are God's ambassador through the prophetic word:

1. Be saturated with the Word of God

We can never get enough of the Bible into our lives (**2 Timothy 3:16**). Study the Word and meditate on it (**Psalms 1:3**). The Hebrew word for meditate means to softly speak it. In this way you will remember the Word and it will become part of your memory. The more we know the voice of God in the written Word, the easier it will be to hear His prophetic words. And when His Word is in our thoughts, it will be nearly impossible to speak something that is not in alignment with the Bible.

Sadhu Sundar Singh (1889 –1929) who was living in India, spent from 05:00 until 08:00 every morning with God. He would read the Bible and then reread it and then he would meditate on it. The Hebrew word for meditate – *hagah* – means to mutter under your breath, or to speak out softly the Word of God. (**Joshua 1:8 This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on**

it by day and by night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it). Sadhu would also use this time to pray. The effect of this focus on God and the things above resulted in him having a powerful ministry and regular heavenly visitations.

It is a great idea when you train people in the prophetic, to encourage them to back up every prophetic word they receive, with Scripture. This will ensure that as they mature, these people will be a powerful prophetic voice in rhythm with the heartbeat of God as He reveals Himself in the Bible. What an assurance also that the Word of God will never return void, but will always accomplish what God sent it for (**Isaiah 55:11**).

2. The language of the prophetic is love

It just breaks my heart when I hear well-meaning people bring prophetic words in a critical or judgmental way. Many times they will be proud of it and defend themselves by pointing to the Old Testament prophets who had to bring God's judgement without sugar coating it. And many times the word they deliver has truth in it.

But I know wonderful prophetic people who will bring the same message so filled with the love of God that those on the receiving end will thank them, repent and serve God even with more passion than before.

The secret lies in understanding God's heart for His people. Even when an Old Testament prophet had to bring the strongest prophetic word to the people of God, it was because God loved His children and did not want them to be lost through harmful living.

I believe with all my heart that the prophetic is God's language of love and He wants us to be ambassadors of that love in His heart towards people, when we deliver the prophetic word.

When I have to deliver a very hard word from God, I always

try to package it in a sandwich of love. I will start out to say that this is a very hard word, but that we must understand that God loves us and hates sin and that He wants to draw us nearer through this word. After delivering the word, I will never sugar coat it, but I will say something that will help the people to experience how much God actually loves them. This helps people to hear the warning very clearly, but also to understand why God is sending this hard word to them.

And when I have to bring a prophetic word, most of the time I will smile while delivering it – especially if it is a word for a child – so that people will still experience God’s love. On the other hand, there are times that it is such an urgent message, that there is no place for smiles, but still for the love of God to shine through.

3. Stay humble

Because God is revealing the mysteries of heaven to you, many times people will be amazed and thank you for delivering the message. But that could very easily make you think that you must be quite a special instrument of God to be used in this way.

We must remember that the prophetic is not about us. God trusts us so much, that He allows His plans to be revealed through us. We are just His messengers in the process. If God will stop revealing the mysteries, we will be empty vessels and have nothing to say.

That is why it is important to always stay humble and give God the glory for using you. In **Philippians 3** Paul set out all the reasons why he also had something to boast about, but he made another choice. In **Philippians 3:8** he says: **Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere**

rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ. Amplified.

And in **2 Corinthians 12:7** Paul tells us how he suffered to ensure that he remains humble: **And to keep me from being puffed up and too much elated by the exceeding greatness of these revelations, there was given me a thorn (a splinter) in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to rack and buffet and harass me, to keep me from being excessively exalted.**

Add to this the fact that even the greatest of prophets never knew everything, and you will understand why it is so important for us to stay humble and always give all the glory only to God Who deserves it. In **1 Corinthians 13:10** the great Apostle Paul even says: **For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect).** None of us really sees the whole picture, but only a part. If we possess this humility of heart and mind, we can avoid many unnecessary errors and mistakes.

4. Prophecy only what you see or hear

Many people are so excited when God shows them something or tells them a secret, that they have difficulty to start and to stop when God does. Have you also experienced times when there was a powerful anointing of God present, but that the people ministering did not discern when the anointing started and when it stopped? If you just keep on going when God's Spirit has already completed the work, are you not perhaps ministering in the flesh? And because God's children know the working of His Spirit, they might also pick up that the anointing faded, but the flesh is still talking.

Jesus gave us a wonderful guideline for anything that we do in life. In **John 5:19** and **John 12:50** Jesus says that He only says what He hears the Father say and He only does what He sees the Father do. If we follow this guideline, our ministering will always be spot on because it is flowing in

the anointing of the Holy Spirit. And it is the anointing that is breaking the yokes – not us.

If God only shows you a picture and gives you no interpretation or application at all, just deliver what you saw. God will add the rest. We don't have to try to do the work of the Holy Spirit for Him. The more we trust and obey, the more we will stand amazed by what God is doing through our prophetic voices.

5. Be yourself

What a privilege that God is giving us mentors in the prophetic and in life. How wonderful it is that we can look at the greatest prophetic people on this planet just by switching on the TV. We must never stop looking and learning from them because it can save us so many years of hard learning just by listening and observing.

But God never intended for you to become a duplicate of somebody else in life. He created you in a unique way and the calling upon your life can be completed only by you.

So many times we see and hear people using the same tone of voice, or the same slogans or the same mannerisms that anointed men and woman of God developed over the years as their own. Rather than pulling people towards you because of your own unique gift, it may push people away from you when you try to mimic somebody else.

The world needs to experience those who are secure enough in God to be themselves and let God's glory shine through them. Be who God made you to be – that will glorify God and then He can use you as He originally planned.

6. The spirit of the prophetic person is subject to that person

To hear the voice of God with clarity or to see in the spirit the message of the Holy Spirit, is always an exciting experience. Many times it brings with it positive emotions and you just want to share what you have just experienced. But we learn in **1 Corinthians 14:32** that the spirits of the prophets

are subject to the prophets.

We very seldom have to interrupt a meeting or stop a speaker to bring a prophetic message. The same God who gave you the message will open the right moment of opportunity for you to deliver the message under His anointing, if you are willing to trust Him to open the door.

If our timing is out of sync or if we blew something because we did not wait on God's perfect timing, we cannot blame the anointing of God for something we did wrong.

7. Always practise the prophetic

We always encourage people to exercise their gifts. **Hebrews 5:14** confirms that this is a Biblical way to strengthen our gifts.

As with most things new, we may make mistakes in the beginning in our interpretation or application of the message we received from God. Therefore, it is a wonderful opportunity if there is a small group or a home cell with people who know you and love you, where you can practise your prophetic word. Let them understand what you are doing and that you are open for assistance from their side.

You can exercise your words of knowledge wherever you go. You can silently pray for a waiter at a restaurant or for the person at the till of a grocery store and ask God to show you something about them. Then without prophesying to them, you can just ask a question or two to discern if what you have received from God fits into their lives. If you heard correctly, it can encourage that person in his walk with God when you share what you have experienced.

While reaching out all over the globe, we sometimes sit at airports and then we have fun just testing what we hear and see about people walking past. We do that with the utmost respect and the people never even know we spoke about them, but it strengthens the boldness of the team to hear that

those around them experienced the same thing. Sometimes we send our students into the malls to exercise their gifts and to test if they heard correctly from God. They always return bubbling over about their experiences.

An outstanding example of exercising your prophetic gift is the way The Mission congregation in Vacaville, California in the USA is doing it. During their prophetic courses, students are not only trained academically – they are constantly being trained in practical situations to flow in the different areas of the prophetic. The effectiveness of what they are doing was recently shown when the Police Department of a nearby city asked the congregation to pray and prophetically hear from God where they could find a child that was lost. The students got the street address from God and the Police were able to rescue the child.

8. Flow prophetically from the presence of God

We may all desire to prophesy, to see more in the prophetic and to hear the voice of God clearer than before (**1Corinthians 14:1** and **Ephesians 1:18**). But if our focus is only on the prophetic, we will miss out on the most wonderful dimension of the revelatory realm – the presence of God.

From the beginning of creation God wanted to walk with man and have fellowship with us. And the more we experience His love, glory, and presence, the more addicted we get to God. Every time we experience His manifest love and presence, we just long for more of Him. And the more we are in the cloud of His presence, the more His presence and His love will shine through us to other people! When we prophesy, people must experience the love and the presence of the living God in and through us – that brings transformation.

In the last days one of the characteristics of the Bride of Christ will be that we will know the cloud of God's presence and that we will know God in the cloud. We will no longer be dependent upon what other people write about or experience with God, but we will be overflowing with our own experiences

and visitations of God.

Tommy Tenny tells the beautiful story of his little daughter that loves to sit on his lap. When she leaves Tommy and runs to her mother, the mother can smell the after shave that Tommy uses, because the little one was resting with her head against his face. We have to live so close to God every day that people will spontaneously smell His presence when we bring His prophetic word to them.

9. Ask permission before you speak a word over somebody

When you know somebody very well and you have an open relationship with one another, you may sometimes share a prophetic word with him or her without asking permission because you already deserved the right to speak into their life. But the general rule of thumb is that you first ask permission before you speak a prophetic word or lay hands on a person. It is not only polite and right to do this; it also opens the heart of the person, to whom you are ministering, to receive what God is saying.

Having a prophetic revelation for someone does not allow us to violate their personal sovereignty. They have the right to determine who and when someone ministers to them and we should never assume that we automatically have that right.

10. Submit to authority where you minister

In the Kingdom of God authority plays a very important role. God gives authority to certain people for specific areas in life and ministry and even the demons know that authority and submit under it (**Acts 19:14-16**).

If you are a manager of a branch of a specific restaurant, you can't just walk into another branch of the same group in another city and start to manage the people there. The people won't accept what you are saying and doing because you did not receive authority to manage there. But if your company sends you there to manage or if the manager asks you to help out in certain areas of management there,

everybody will be open to what you are bringing to the table.

You may have a wonderful gift of prophecy and your congregation may have given you the green light to flow as and when the Spirit of God shows you. But when you step out of that domain, it is important to submit under the authority of any other place in which you want to minister.

Even when I am invited to minister somewhere and God gives me a prophetic word for them, I would first ask the Pastor's permission to bring that word. I have never found a Pastor who refused this request. It shows honour and respect for the Pastor and the people and it also brings confidence to the people to open their hearts, because their Pastor gave his permission. And many times those people will accept what you bring from God even more than the people who knows you well in your own area (**Matthew 13:57**).

11. Don't go into the 'thus says the Lord' mode

Let me first say that I don't judge people who prophesy in this way and I am open to a prophetic word even when somebody uses this kind of phrase. But what room for discernment is left (especially for the inexperienced believer) if somebody starts a prophetic word with: "Thus says the Lord". Who can question it if it comes from such an authentic Source?

We must remember that the Old Testament prophets who used this phrase had to bring a word from God in the midst of many false prophets who were speaking in the name of their gods. We are speaking in an environment of believers around us. Jesus never used this phrase – He would rather say: 'Verily, verily I say to you'. That could be translated as: 'I honestly tell you the truth'. And the only time in the New Testament when somebody used this phrase, some of the details of the prophecy did not happen as it was prophesied (Agabus in **Acts 21:10-11**).

It gives so much more freedom to the person prophesying and to the person receiving the word if you rather say

something like: 'I believe the Lord is saying' or: 'I experience the following from God' or: 'I feel the Lord shows me...' This gives the person receiving the opportunity to discern if what you bring is truly from God (**1 John 4:1**). We prophesy in part because we only know in part (**1 Corinthians 13:9**). If I made a mistake in interpretation or application, using phrases like that helps me to keep on prophesying and continue to grow in the prophetic even when I am not perfect yet.

12. Don't prophesy alone

There are certain words that are personal and would put people on the spot if you prophesied it to them in public. But even when you speak to a person privately, it is good to take a witness with you so that he/she can help discern the word and also assure that the person receiving it cannot turn around and say you said something that you did not say. It is always safer to take somebody with you if you have to bring a word to someone of the opposite sex.

In general, it is good to deliver a prophetic word in public so that all can hear and discern and all can be witnesses of what was spoken. When the prophecy is fulfilled, all can rejoice together and bring God the glory. This builds faith in a prophetic community. Many times a word for a specific person will also be applicable to somebody else in the audience and they would have missed out if the word was delivered privately.

13. Understand when God is showing you the plan of the enemy

Sometimes God will show you things from the second heaven dimension to understand what the plans of the enemy are regarding the person to whom you are prophesying. You may, for example, see the person doing something sinful and think that the Lord is showing you what is happening in his life, while the Lord is actually showing you the plans of the enemy to bring that sin into his life. Your role is then to warn the person about the plans of the enemy in such a way that those listening will not think about it in the wrong way.

If the Lord shows you something negative that is happening in a person's life, you need discernment from God as to what to do with it. Most of the times when God shows me the negative, I will ask Him what to do or say next. And in the majority of cases, Holy Spirit will lead me to call out the opposite in that person's life – because that is what God wants to happen.

Very seldom do I have to bring a hard word of rebuke to a person or a congregation, in public. When that is necessary, I will do it in utmost love and never embarrass somebody through it.

It is so much easier for the messenger and for the person who must hear it, when rebuke is done in love and in a one-on-one relational way. Then the Spirit of God can bring repentance and healing in a way that will benefit the Kingdom of God.

14. Get over your wounds before you speak prophetically into somebody's life

If there are still wounds of rejection or hurt in your life, first get your wounds healed before you prophesy to others. When we are wounded, we may react in our soul and misinterpret what we receive from God. A person may for instance 'receive' a negative word about the leadership in his congregation, because of past wounds from leaders. If we are wounded in our souls, our discernment might be suspect. First get healing from the past and then you will be able to prophesy accurately.

The same is true when we are tired, provoked, or angry. Don't prophesy when you are feeling this way. Misrepresenting God as angry when He was not, disqualified Moses from taking Israel into the Promised Land (**Numbers 20:12**). Excuse yourself if you feel angry, frustrated or bitter because you may curse somebody rather than bless them, and in this way you may bring judgement on yourself.

15. Know the difference between discernment and judgement

When you have the gift of discernment, you will always know

the truth from untruth, what is from God and what is not. This is a wonderful gift from God, but it makes it very difficult for you not to be judgemental. Many people with this gift of discernment walk around with a pointing finger, focussing on everything that is not right. This judgemental approach may bring them in discredit with people and with leadership. And all the time they feel that they did not do anything wrong – they just pointed out what God showed them.

All of us must learn that the same God, who gives us the discernment, is also a God of love. Biblical discernment is always filled with love. It knows that there is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, that it might be better not to focus on the negative in people, but to prophecy the positive.

Sometimes it will be necessary to point out a wrong, but then it can be done in so much love that nobody will take offense. If God shows me that somebody is badmouthing his leader behind his back and I know that God wants to bless him when he honours his leader, I may say something like this: ‘Honouring leaders is a very important principle in the Bible like **Romans 13** shows us. God wants to bless you and promote you in leadership – just walk close to your leader and honour him as a man of God. You will see God’s blessings increase on your life.’

16. When you have delivered the message, trust the Holy Spirit for the rest

People flowing in the prophetic are so enthusiastic about what God shows them that they will do anything to see the prophetic word accomplished. They will deliver the word and then watch closely to see if the person who received it, is doing something with it. If not, they may return to speak about it and about what ought to be done. If you do this, you want to take over the work of God the Holy Spirit and that is a terrible mistake to make.

We must remember that the prophetic person is only called

to hear or see, to interpret under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and then to apply it as God shows them. Then step aside, get out of the way and give Holy Spirit the opportunity to do the rest of the work.

Don't ever try to manipulate anybody with a prophetic word or with your reputation. It is totally unbiblical and something that does not fit God's prophetic ambassadors!

17. Ask mature prophetic people to mentor you

When God anoints you with the gift of the prophetic, you already have everything that you need to fulfil your calling. **1 John 2:27** says that the Holy Spirit will train you in everything you need to know. This is true and there is no substitute for the Holy Spirit to teach us. All that must be added is to exercise the gift, to grow in experience, and to gain the Godly wisdom needed to be the instrument in God's hands that He created you to be.

To reach maturity in the prophetic will take time and many tears through many years. But if you pray for a Godly mentor or spiritual father/mother to guide you, it will give you a shortcut that will save you time and heartache. We can learn so many lessons that took them a lifetime to learn if we are open to their friendship and wisdom.

Whenever God raises up somebody new in the prophetic, we try to assign them to somebody who is already mature in the gift and whom we think will match with the new student's personality. It is just amazing to see the rapid and balanced development of the new people who are walking with somebody who can love and guide them towards the next level in the prophetic.

18. Keep stretching beyond your comfort zone

I want to encourage you to keep dreaming big and keep stretching your boundaries (**Isaiah 54:2**). If you dream of and are constantly hungry for more revelations from God and for more accurate prophecies through you, God will meet you at

the level of your hunger.

One of the ways to keep on stretching yourself is to ask God for more than He is giving you at the time you minister. If you receive more from God and you delivered the first part of the prophecy that you are certain of, you can test the new information in the form of a question. You can tell the person that you are not 100% sure of the next part, but ask him if the new information makes any sense to him. If it is accurate, it will still have enormous impact – even if you posted it as a question.

19. Discern the different ways that God can speak at the same time.

God does not always only use one method to communicate His prophetic information to us. Sometimes there will be different kinds of information at the same time: I may, for example, see a picture and hear words from God at the same time. Then God may give me a word of knowledge by letting me experience the pain physically in my own body. The art is to combine all of these into one prophetic word to the person, not even speaking on how you received it.

Many times in long healing lines at crusades, I will still be busy ministering to one person, and then God will start showing me things about the next person. The amazing thing is that I sometimes receive more information from God the moment I touch the person.

20. Change the atmosphere!

Did you ever get out of bed feeling grumpy? Or stepped into a room and suddenly you just feel tired or depressed? Can you remember driving through a town and sexual thoughts just flooded your brain?

Many times when things like this happen we think: Where did that come from? Or we may feel guilty and immediately repent before God for these sinful thoughts. But where did these atmospheres originate from?

When Paul is talking about spiritual warfare as a lifestyle in **Ephesians 6**, he starts off with explaining who our enemy is. In **Ephesians 6:12** he says: **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.** (KJV). *The Amplified* says: **against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.**

Spiritual forces of wickedness operate in the atmosphere around us. When an unsaved person is operating in sin, it gives the demonic powers the legal right to influence the atmosphere around that person. When a community or even a country is not serving God, they allow evil to operate in that area influencing the atmosphere of that whole area.

We as believers must ask the Holy Spirit of God to give us more discernment so that we will be able to pick up atmospheres influenced by demonic powers. And when we discern atmospheres that are not from God, we have the authority from God to resist those powers and cancel their influence over us.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Some time ago we were sitting in a bus in India. At the next stop a lady got on to the bus. The moment she sat down, her head dropped and she was sound asleep. The interesting thing that happened next was that all of us around her got very tired and some also fell asleep. The moment that lady got off the bus, the tiredness disappeared and we all enjoyed the rest of the trip. Do you think the lady could have carried

an atmosphere with her that influenced all of us?

Sometimes when we fly into a country, the Holy Spirit will show us some of the evil powers that are operating in that country. Or you would drive through a small town and just feel poverty around you. What do you do about it?

You must first realise that it is not you who brought this atmosphere and the evil thoughts into the place. Understand that somebody gave the enemy legal right to release an ungodly atmosphere. Resist it by saying: I identify you spirit of poverty and I bind your influence over my life – Jesus came to give me life in abundance! If you are not in a position to speak it out loud because there are other people around you who would not understand what you are doing, you may whisper it softly so that nobody else would hear you. But demons do have very good hearing capabilities – they will hear and obey even when you whisper in authority.

A wonderful way to handle these atmospheres that are not from God, is to displace them with the Word of God. You may walk the streets and find a couple arguing about something. Just do window shopping near enough to them and start whispering scriptures about peace and love into that atmosphere. Many times the argument will just be dropped without you saying a word to them.

In our travels around the globe, we are forced to sleep in houses, guesthouses and hotels that may be saturated with evil atmospheres because of all the unsaved people that occupied that room before us. Because we have paid for the room for that night, it gives us legal right to be there. The moment I step into the room, I will take authority over any evil power that may be in the room. I will decree that no other spirit except the Holy Spirit of God is welcome there. This will change the atmosphere from ungodly to a holy place where I can have encounters with the living God.

A friend of ours says that we as Christians should all be air

conditioners – we should change the atmosphere wherever we go. This is especially true when there are wicked forces influencing the atmosphere.

When we minister in the prophetic we must be carriers of the presence of God in such a way, that people will experience God the moment we step into the area. When we deliver what God showed or said, there should be such an anointing of the Holy Spirit, that people’s lives and circumstances will be changed by the power of God.

Are you willing and ready to be a prophetic air conditioner that changes the atmosphere wherever you go?

REFLECTIONS & ACTIVATIONS:

REVISIT THE 20 POINTS OF THIS CHAPTER

Are there any areas of hurt that you know of that could have been prevented if people were trained to operate in prophetic wisdom?

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What are the three most important areas for you that were mentioned in this chapter, that you would want part of your prophetic lifestyle?

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Chapter 7

CONCLUSION

The most radical thing you can do today is to believe what God says about you, and then live like it is true.

– Bob Hazlett.

This book was not meant just to give you more information. I want to create a hunger within you, to re-awaken a desire in you for more of God and more of the supernatural. We need to press in for growth and for more. The Word encourages us to move from grace to grace (**John 1:16**), from strength to strength (**Psalms 84:7**) and from glory to glory (**2 Corinthians 3:18**)!

While you were reading this book, you might have recognized some of the ways God is already speaking to you. Many of us have been like the boy Samuel: God was already speaking to him – he just did not recognize it as the voice of God.

God desires to walk with us and talk to us in different ways. Prophecy is about recognizing when God speaks and what He says – and then responding to Him.

The longer Samuel walked with God, the clearer he heard and understood the voice of God. And the sharper his prophetic words became. The Bible tells this awesome testimony about Samuel – a testimony that should become the standard for us all to aim towards: **Samuel grew; the Lord was with him and let**

none of his words fall to the ground. (1 Samuel 3:19)

I believe that the end-time church of Jesus Christ on earth will be a company of people walking in the presence of God, shining with the glory of God and walking in the supernatural as a natural lifestyle. In our day God wants to release new things. **Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth; do you not perceive and know it and will you not give heed to it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:19)**

It is the time of **1 Corinthians 2:9-10** **What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared for those who love Him. Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them by and through His Spirit. Amplified.** We are going to see and experience things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard. We are living in the most exciting time imaginable.

May I therefore encourage you to exercise your spiritual gifts (like the prophetic) in the same way we exercise our physical muscles in a gym? When **Hebrews 5:14** motivates us to exercise our spiritual senses, it uses the Greek word ‘gymnadzo’ – the same word where our gymnasium comes from.

That is why this book is filled with activations. We want you to regularly exercise the different areas of the prophetic lifestyle so that prophecy will eventually come forth as naturally as your breathing. I pray that you will be inspired to start out on a journey of activating your prophetic gift everywhere you go. As you continue to do the exercises in this book, may you experience that it becomes so easy just to step into open heavens and then speak God’s heart as an encouragement to the people He created. Are you ready to make a commitment to grow?

In classical rabbinical literature we find a phrase: tikkun olam. It means ‘repairing the world.’ The Jews prayed it three times a day as part of the Aleinu prayer. ‘Repairing the world’ is God’s idea and He calls us to be involved in it. God really wants us to hear His voice and to do His will. In this way we are becoming

world changers in God's service.

The generation God is interested in is the one that seeks His face and thinks like heaven. The time of miracles becoming commonplace is already here. This is our time and today is our day.

Among the people that Jesus reached were two kinds of people, and they are still in church today. There are those who are spiritual skeptics. In Jesus' day they folded their arms and wondered: What does a carpenter know about the forgiving of sins? Today they are still passive and criticize those we seek to see supernatural manifestation of the Kingdom of God. The other group is the spectators. In Jesus' day they followed Jesus just to see more miracles. Today they are going from conference to conference to see other people perform miracles.

The good news is that today God is turning skeptics and spectators into a mighty Kingdom army. God is empowering us to think heaven and to bring heaven into secular settings throughout our communities.

The pulpit is not the only platform to express the Kingdom. To be the church we have to venture outside our buildings and speak in ways that society can hear and understand. God calls us onto all seven mountains of culture to influence people with the love of God. What mountain are you climbing, to influence people for the Kingdom?

If Jesus were incarnated today, what would He do to reach the world? Perhaps He would have tweeted the Gospel, posted on Facebook and shared photos of healed lepers on Instagram? He might even have taken a selfie with Zacchaeus and added the caption: My new friend – the Tax Collector!

Don't focus on what you don't have or what is not happening. Focus on who you already are in Christ and be grateful for it. It is time to introduce God to the world around you. You can hear His voice and you are His voice. Go into every sphere of society where you can bring glory to Him!

Continue to recognize new and different ways that God is speaking to you and through you. Always remain humble and teachable. Be the ambassador and mouthpiece of the King that He created you to be. And by your words received from the throne room of heaven, may God change the atmosphere and people's lives for the better everywhere you go.

Appendix

EXTRA TRAINING and ACTIVATION

Hearing God, seeing God, and perceiving His heart through prophetic activation is what makes new things possible in the earth. – Dan McCollam.

In this chapter we give you the exciting opportunity to continue to activate your prophetic gift in different areas.

STEPPING INTO OPEN HEAVENS

The supernatural realm of the prophetic is a spontaneous outflow from a lifestyle beyond the veil. When you regularly meet face to face with God, you will hear, know, and be able to discern the voice of God in a very sharp way!

It is so important to cultivate a daily walk with God that goes far beyond just reading the Bible and praying every day.

HAVE A TIME AND PLACE! Go to bed one hour earlier and get up one hour earlier (or if you are a night owl – set aside one hour per evening to separate yourself with God).

EVERY DAY READ THE BIBLE, PRAY & WAIT UPON THE LORD. While meditating on what you've read, ask God every day for a verse or a message from Scripture that you can give to

somebody to encourage that person that day. Then be sensitive whom God will show you to encourage that day.

IN YOUR DAILY TIME WITH GOD – READ SOMETHING ABOUT PRESENCE OR THE SUPERNATURAL REALM.

PRACTISE CARRYING THE PRESENCE EVERYWHERE YOU GO. Ask: *Please make me more aware of your Spirit in me every moment, Lord?*

What do you show me in the spirit realm Lord?

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Is there a word for somebody Lord?

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USING NAMES AS TRIGGER FOR PROPHETIC WORDS:

Names are very important to God. Throughout scripture God links a person's name to an element of their prophetic destiny. God even sometimes changes people's names to make it speak forth their destiny.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham meaning: Father of many nations. (**Genesis 17:4-5**)

In **Matthew 16:18** Jesus changed the name of Simon (meaning:

God has heard) to Peter meaning 'rock'. **And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it.**

The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him about Mary: **She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) Amplified.**

Many times the Spirit will prompt me to ask a person's name. The moment he tells me his name, God will give me a word attached to that name. Other times I will know a person's name and also know the meaning of the name. That will just be the trigger God uses to spark the rest of the prophetic word He wants to reveal to that person. This also works when person (like a waiter in a restaurant) has a name tag on.

We were prophesying to the students of our Power Team when the Lord focused my attention on the names of two of the students. To Stephen I said: Your name means: Crown and God wants to use you as His ambassador in the business world. The rest just flowed out of that.

The other young man comes from Nigeria from a family of powerful Pastors and the word for him started from that background, to show him the legacy that he carries. God wants to use him in the pulpit ministry, although this is not what he wants to do at this stage. In the end I just added: Your name is Immanuel meaning: God with us. Just remember that the presence of God is in you and He will help you accomplish all the dreams for your life.

It may benefit your exciting prophetic journey if you would study the meaning of names, because God can use that knowledge to trigger what He wants to share in a prophetic word.

NAMES THAT TRIGGER A PROPHETIC WORD:

- 1. Make a list of the most common names used in your***

culture. Study the meaning of those names to be ready if the spirit wants to use a name as an activator.

- 2. Ask the Holy Spirit to use you today in somebody's life to encourage him or her with a prophetic word.***
- 3. Go to your small group or workplace with an expectancy that God is going to use you. When God shows you somebody, be open if God wants to use her name as a trigger to give you a prophetic word for her.***
- 4. Ask permission to share something with her. If Holy Spirit links the meaning of the name to something, just share what you feel about it and add what Holy Spirit says further. Be positive, encouraging, and brief. Bless the person after delivering what you feel God is saying.***

FAVORITE BIBLE CHARACTER

Each person in the group chooses a favorite bible character whom they admire in character and in actions.

Let each person now go to somebody in the group and introduce himself by the name of that favorite character. The group member now prayerfully prophesies over the person who introduced himself, from a quality they feel relates to the Bible person.

Then the one who prophesied introduces herself and the other person prophesies over her.

The group keeps moving every two minutes until at least seven people have prophesied over you.

Now everybody asks God for prophetic insights as to why you relate to this character. Write what God tells you as a prophetic word for yourself in your prophetic journal.

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FAVORITE LINE PROPHECY

Sometimes when God speaks, you will hear a song in your mind or see a clip of a movie in your imagination. God can use modern day modern day movies, books and songs to trigger a prophetic word.

Divide into groups of two. Ask the Lord to give you a song, a line from a book, a clip from a movie or anything contemporary for the person sitting with you. When you receive the word from God, share with the other person what you heard. If that triggers an extra prophetic encouragement, feel free to also share that with the person. Now give the other person the opportunity to do the same to you.

For individual activation you may ask the Lord what He is speaking over you personally through any of the above vehicles. Let Him sing a song over you, or quote a clip from a favorite movie. Record it by date in your prophetic journal.

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EXERCISE WRITTEN WORDS

Get together with a friend or in a group, divide into groups of two each. Use a part of Scripture like Psalms 23, Psalms 91 or Romans 8. The first one will prayerfully choose a

verse that you feel God is speaking to the person opposite you. When you give this verse to the other person, ask the Lord to give you more prophetically for that person. Now the other person does the same.

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Pray that God will show you somebody to whom you are to send a written prophecy. If you struggle to get a name, browse through your cell phone contacts. When you have found the person, ask God for a Word or Bible text for that person. Send it to them using social media.

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Prayerfully ask God for a prophetic word that you can write down for somebody. Write or type the word on a piece of paper and carry that paper with you. Ask God to show you the right person to hand this paper to. When you find that person, share with her that God gave you this word and that you feel it might be for her today.

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BLESSING NATIONAL LEADERS

Ask the Lord to show you strategic national leaders that He wants you to bless. If possible, print out their pictures to have it in front of you.

Now ask the Lord for prophetic words of encouragement for each of those leaders in front of you. Write down the prophetic words you receive.

By looking at their individual photos, speak the prophetic declarations you received to those leaders as if they were standing in front of you.

In your prophetic journal, write a prayer for each leader according to the prophetic word you received and declared over them. Pray these prayers often and see how God touches the lives of those leaders.

PHONE BOOK PROPHECY

Prayerfully ask God to sharpen your prophetic gifting while doing the following exercise.

Take a phone book and open it while your eyes are closed. Put your finger on a name and open your eyes to read the name out loud. Listen to what God wants to say to that person. Write it down in a short, positive encouragement and then pray it into that person's life.

While doing the exercise, you may have a strong prompting of the Holy Spirit to phone one of the people for whom you received an encouragement. Then phone the person and politely ask permission to share what you feel God is saying. You may say something like: 'You don't know me, but while I was paging through the telephone book, I felt as though God wanted to encourage you. Would you like to hear it?' If they say "yes," very shortly share the word. If they decline, politely respect their choice and greet them.

It is wise not to give personal details over the phone, but rather give your local church's name, telephone number and address. If they need to be followed up, do it prayerfully with the support of your group.

HEALING THROUGH PROPHETIC ACTS

Ask the people in your group who have pain somewhere in their bodies. Put them into groups where they e.g. have neck, back, or shoulder pain; or groups with pain in other specific areas in their bodies.

Now ask volunteers to stand with each person in pain. Ask the Lord to show you if He wants to heal with a prophetic act. When God shows you, tell the volunteers exactly what to do and to do it with passion.

If God shows you arrows in people's backs, let the volunteers remove it with passion and in faith that God is healing the person. If God shows you a chain binding the person, cut it with the sword of the Word. Etc.

After performing the prophetic act, ask those who had the pain if they can feel any difference. Some will immediately be healed and others may feel a positive difference in pain levels.

Continue to minister to those who did not receive healing, according to what God is showing you. Praise God for all of those who did receive healing!

Write down what happened and what you experienced.

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TRAIN YOUR SENSES:

SEE INTERNAL TRIGGERS

Divide the group into pairs. Ask God to open our inner eyesight to see what He wants to show us for the person next to us. Now close your eyes and wait for a picture from God to encourage the other person. Do you see a picture, a movie or an image of something?

Now ask God what it means and if He wants to give more prophetic words regarding this picture. Share with the person sitting with you what you saw and experienced. Now it is his/her turn to see and prophesy over you.

Write down in your prophetic journal what you experienced when you prophesied and when the other person prophesied over you.

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DO YOU SEE A COLOR?

Divide into pairs. Have each person share what color he sees on the other person and what he feels it might mean.

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WHAT DO YOU SMELL?

Sit in a small group of 5 people. Let the first person share his favorite fragrance. Then those in the group that prayerfully experience something from God can start to prophesy over that person, using the mentioned fragrance as a starting point.

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DO YOU EXPERIENCE A FLAVOR?

Divide into pairs. Ask for a perception of flavor concerning the other person. Share a prophetic word that is triggered by that flavor.

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WHAT DO YOU HEAR?

Have a small group of 5 members sitting in a circle. Start with anybody. If that person was a song, what song would it be and why? Only one person names the song as God gives it. The rest just add extra insights to the prophetic word.

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HE TOUCHED ME!

First share with the group how God touches each person in an individual way. Some will feel goose bumps, some a sensation like a hand on them, some may feel a wind softly blowing, some a heaviness of God upon them, etc.

Let there be a time of quiet rest in the Lord. Music without words may be playing very softly. Then pray over the group that they may experience the touch of God upon their lives.

Now ask each member to write down what he or she experienced. Let every person prayerfully ask God what the experience may mean.

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WORDS OF KNOWLEDGE

GYM WORK

Divide in pairs. Ask the Lord the answers on the following three questions:

- *How long ago were you saved?*
- *How many people were there when you were saved?*
- *What kind of setting was it? (Church service; Youth Camp; Alone in the house; etc.)*

Within 30 seconds from the word: Go! The first person answers the questions. Then the second person has 30 seconds to answer the questions.

Then we all stand in a circle and by a showing of hands we want to see who got it all three correct? Who had two

correct? Who had one correct? Who had none correct? For the last group all will cheer, because they are the heroes who took the risk and will one day succeed! We celebrate failure because it is the only way to be trained for success!

This whole exercise is repeated three times.

What did you learn from this exercise? How do you plan to grow in words of knowledge?

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Divide into pairs again – people who don't know one another. Ask the Spirit to give you information about your partner's family. You may see things like a face; hair color or a specific situation. Share what you experience. If you miss, try again. If the Lord gives you a prophetic word with the words of knowledge, encourage your partner with it.

Now it is the other person's turn to do the same.

If there is time after this, pray for each other's families.

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SOCIAL NETWORKS

In the same way that you receive words of knowledge for healing and treasure hunts, ask the Lord to give you words

of knowledge for your social networks (Facebook; Mobile phone text messages; Broadcast groups; email contacts; etc.)

- **What names, faces or places comes before you?**
- **What are their needs?**
- **How can you minister to them?**
- **Post this prophetic encouragement to your friends without letting them know that you are training to receive more accurate words of knowledge from God.**

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DAILY JOURNAL

In your daily time with the Lord, you can journal things that God shows you will happen today.

- **Who will you meet today?**
- **Who will call you?**
- **Specific things that will happen.**
- **What needs must you be prepared to meet today?**
- **What Scriptures or encouragement did I receive from God today that I can have ready to minister to these people?**

Before bed time, quickly journal the results of the day.

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SUDDENLIES – ALWAYS BE PREPARED

POPCORN PROPHECY

Have one person sit on a chair while the rest of the group stands in a circle around him. Trust the Lord to show you what to say.

Each person standing will speak only one sentence to the person who is seated. They will follow one after the other, with a one-sentence word that relates to the person sitting and also links to what the previous person had said. No time is wasted in between – each person follows the other like popcorn popping.

Nobody says anything new until everybody standing has said one sentence.

Let the exercise continue until everybody has had at least three opportunities to speak prophetically into the life of the person seated.

This activation will train you in speed, in listening, and in interacting with one another.

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CALLER ID KNOWLEDGE

When your home phone or mobile phone rings, try to predict who is calling and what the caller wants. Ask God to give you words of knowledge for this as a way of life. Practice

this until it becomes normal to receive the right information.

You can do the same thing when there is a knock on the door. Expect that God will show you who is at the door through a word of knowledge.

PROPHETIC GIVING

PROPHETIC GIFT EXCHANGE

This exercise trains you to see the meaning and power behind prophetic gifting.

Write the names of your group members on small cards. Pass out a card with somebody's name to each member of the group.

Each member is going to listen to the voice of God about the person whose name they received. Each one will then buy an inexpensive gift that prophetically represents something the Lord is speaking into the life of that person. Write the prophetic encouragement on a piece of paper to present with the gift.

The next week the group gathers in a circle. One-by-one the group members will hand out the gift and speak the prophetic encouragement into the life of the person receiving the gift.

PAY THE WAY GAME

A fun way to practice prophetic gifting is to make a habit out of paying the way for others. If we watch and prepare for prophetic opportunities, there will be a huge increase in supernatural appointments where you can prophesy into people's lives.

Ask the Lord to show you somebody in the coffee shop whose bill you can pay without you knowing them. If

they ask the waiter to identify the one who paid, the waiter may feel free to point you out. At the same time ask the Lord for a prophetic encouragement for the person for whom you are going to pay the way.

If they come back to you to say thanks, you may just encourage them with one or two sentences.

If they don't come back to you, just continue to speak that blessing over them in prayer in their absence.

In the same spirit:

- **Pay for the groceries of a widow at the store.**
- **Buy an extra grocery item to give away**
- **Buy 3 items that you feel God is laying on your heart, with which to bless people. Write a short prophetic encouragement on a card that you are going to attach to this item. Put your name and mobile number at the end of the message. Now go to a place that the Holy Spirit shows you (like a mall or a flea market). Ask the Lord to show you the person to whom you are to give the gift. Just greet the person in a friendly manner, smile and ask if you may give him or her a gift? Then just walk on. If the person wants to talk to you, be open for it. But the goal of the exercise is only to flex your muscles in prophetic gifting.**

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionary

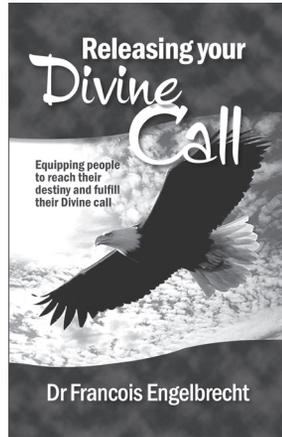
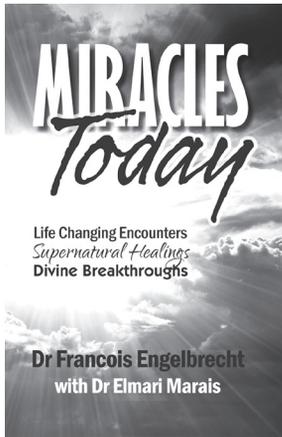
Modern King James Version

King James Version w/ Strong's Numbers

The Amplified Bible



Other Books by the Author



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How to PROPHECY

Believe that the prophetic gift and grace is for you personally! Desire it. Dream about giving others powerful, accurate prophetic encouragement. Say to yourself: "I was created for this. This is my gift. I was made to prophesy."



Dr Francois Engelbrecht

Do you desire to hear and see more clearly in the supernatural realm? How would you like to speak accurate prophetic words from God into people's lives? It's available to you!

The prophetic is one of the most exciting gifts you can think of! Heavens are open, the supernatural becomes natural and people are uplifted and filled with new hope. Every time God shows you a new picture, whispers into your ear, or surprises you with fresh new visions and dreams, you just marvel at the greatness of the God we worship.

I believe with all my heart that the prophetic is God's language of love and He wants us to be ambassadors of that love in His heart towards people.

Are you ready to taste and experience more of this wonderful world of the prophetic in your own life? ***This is not just another book on the prophetic. There are questions, exercises, and activations throughout this book to assist you in flexing your own prophetic muscles even more.***

Dr Francois Engelbrecht is the founder of Powerhouse International. He is a Professor at Team Impact Christian University and a regular speaker on Radio and Television programs. He travels globally to speak at Conferences and to equip and empower Leaders. He conducts Prophetic and Healing meetings worldwide.

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