

Echoes of Heaven: Seeing In Part, Loving In Full

I. What Is Prophecy

- a. **Prophecy [noun]** - is any God-inspired "*testimony of Jesus (Revelation 19:10)*". Prophecy is the practice of man communicating a message from God's heart through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to edify, exhort, and console the body of Christ.

(Revelation 19:10 NASB) "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

(2 Peter 1:21 NASB) "For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

(1 Corinthians 14:1-5 NASB) "Pursue love, yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 2 For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for edification, exhortation, and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but rather that you would prophesy; and greater is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edification."

- b. The key to growing in recognizing God's voice through prophecy is to lay hold of God's heart for His bride (the church). It's God's desire that we would grow in the knowledge of His will (the desire of His heart) so that we might walk in alignment with Him. Jesus speaks over His bride in a way that washes, nourishes, and cherishes her. New Testament prophecy is not about calling out someone's sin or delivering a rebuke but is intended to remind and call the believer to walk in the fullness of God's dream for their life. Love is our highest aim when functioning in the prophetic.

(Colossians 1:9-10 NASB) "For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"

(Ephesians 5:25-30 NASB) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are parts of His body."

(1 Timothy 1:18-19 NASB) "This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, 19 keeping faith and a good conscience..."

(1 Corinthians 13:8-13 NASB) "Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away with; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away with. 9 For we know in part and prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away with. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

II. Receiving And Understanding God's Voice

- a. **Revelation** - The initial impression or insight that you sense God is giving you, whether it's a word, picture, Scripture, or other form of communication. This is the "raw data" of divine revelation. For example, "*I'm seeing a picture of you lying in a green field.*" It is the first glimpse of what God is revealing, serving as a starting point for deeper understanding and application.

- b. **Interpretation** – The process of explaining or providing meaning to the revelation. It involves discerning what God is communicating through the “revelation”. For example, *"I believe your lying down represents 'rest,' and the green field symbolizes the green pastures in Psalm 23, where God leads us to find peace and renewal."* Interpretation helps clarify the significance of the revelation in a way that brings understanding and application.
- c. **Application** – Understanding how the revelation and interpretation apply to the individual’s life. It’s about speaking into the specific situation and guiding the person toward action or transformation. For example, *"I sense that you've been feeling overwhelmed and busy, but God is leading you into a season of rest and renewal."* Application helps the individual connect the prophetic message to their current circumstances and respond in faith.
- d. Sometimes, especially when working in teams to, God may only give us a portion of the prophetic word, whether it's the revelation, interpretation, or application, and that's okay. What's important is understanding the distinction between each part.
 - i. **Why might God sometimes only give us the revelation?** - The interpretation or application could be deeply personal, and sharing it in the wrong setting might expose or embarrass the individual. Alternatively, God may want to involve the person in the process of seeking the interpretation or application themselves.
- e. Prophecy often contains symbolism and allegory, so we must be cautious in our interpretations and applications. If we confuse revelation with interpretation, or interpretation with application, we risk delivering the word incorrectly.
 - i. For example, if we're praying for someone and receive a picture of the state “New Jersey,” we might automatically assume they are from there or are meant to move there. However, the correct interpretation could be that God is giving them a "new jersey", a new role or opportunity to be part of a new team.
- f. Only give the interpretation or application if you feel that God has revealed it to you. Don't feel pressured to complete all three parts if you only have the revelation. If someone adds their own interpretation or application, even when they've only received the revelation, it can lead to confusion, misdirection, or disappointment. This is where much hurt and offense can arise in prophetic ministry.

III. Growing In The Language of God's Heart

- a. We primarily grow in the language of God's heart through the Scriptures. The written word serves as a tool that allows us to have a conversation with Jesus, the Living Word. Maintaining a healthy “Bible diet” is the most important foundation for learning to prophesy.
- b. God also uses our “background knowledge” to help us understand the language of His heart. This means we can use “background knowledge prompts” or “activation tools” as a way to begin practicing how to hear and communicate what God is speaking. Background knowledge prompts:
 - i. A character from a movie, a season of the year, a verse from the Bible, a historical figure, a movie that reminds you of the person, a newspaper headline, or even seeing a color associated with them.
- c. **Do Activation Ideas “limit God”?** No! God is all-knowing, so when He speaks to us, He simplifies His communication to help us understand. Giving God specific parameters (like activation ideas) doesn't limit Him any more than the language of human conversation does. It's simply a tool to help us engage with Him in a way we can grasp.

- d. God often speaks to us through “3 languages”:
 - i. **His language** – The language of His heart
 - ii. **Your Language** – The understanding and experiences you bring to the conversation
 - iii. **The Receiver’s Language** – The language and background of the person receiving the prophetic word
- e. Each of these languages uses terms with specific meanings. The Bible gives us insight into the meaning of certain terms, while our own background knowledge (and the background knowledge of the person we’re prophesying to) also informs how we understand and interpret words.
 - i. **The Bible can use terms with multiple meanings**: For example, “A Lion” can refer to Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, but it can also refer to the devil, who is described as a roaring lion seeking to devour.
 - ii. A term like the season “Fall/Autumn” might hold positive connotations for you, but for someone else, it might bring up grief or loss, depending on their personal experiences.

IV. Prophetic Paradigm

- a. A **paradigm** is the lens through which we perceive ourselves and others.
- b. The Bridal Paradigm - Embracing the “*Bridal Paradigm*” is essential as we grow and operate in our prophetic gifting. This paradigm presents a view of God throughout Scripture as the passionate, emotional Bridegroom who delights in and affectionately loves His Bride (the Church). The “Bridal Paradigm” reminds us that it’s not only when we look at Him that He delights, but He is also filled with gladness when He looks at us.
- c. **Perception Shapes Everything We Think and Say** – The way we perceive God affects every aspect of our life, including how we approach Him, how we read His Word, how we hear His voice, and how we relate to Him and to one another.
- d. **Searching For The Budding Fruit** - In the Song of Solomon, the Bridegroom often chooses to focus on what is “*budding*” in His beloved’s life (the qualities that are still maturing). In prophecy, we are called to reach for God’s heart and speak to the budding fruit in someone’s life. While it may be easy to see the “weeds” in a person, we must shift our perspective and look for the emerging qualities that Jesus is highlighting in their life.
- e. In ***Ephesians 5:25-29***, Paul describes how Jesus sanctifies His bride through the “*washing of the Word*” and shows His love by “*nourishing and cherishing*” her. As we prophesy, we are called to use God’s words to wash, nourish, and cherish His bride, encouraging and building her up.

V. Serving Together In Team Ministry

- a. We are committed to building a ministry that thrives on teamwork, not a ‘one-man show.’ Following Jesus’ example of sending His disciples out in pairs, we recognize the power of collaboration. By working together, we create a culture of accountability, encouragement, and greater impact in serving others. Ministry is not meant to be a solo effort, but a collective one, reflecting the unity and partnership found within the body of Christ.
- b. **Building Upon One Another** - When prophesying in a team setting, we have the opportunity to build upon the words Jesus gives our teammates rather than searching for an entirely different word. As someone begins to prophesy, we can ask God for further revelation related to the theme or idea already being spoken. This allows for greater unity and results in our guests receiving a deeper and more cohesive prophetic word.

- c. **Giving Preference** - In our prophetic rooms, we strive to honor and prefer one another, embodying the command to "***be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love***" (**Romans 12:10**). As we seek to hear from the Lord, it is crucial to approach each other with humility and selflessness. Paul instructs us in **Philippians 2:3**, to "***Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.***"
 - i. Prophetic ministry is one where the temptation for ambition and pride can easily creep in, but it is in this very space that we are called to practice the heart of God, valuing and lifting up others before ourselves. When we do so, we create an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit can move freely, and the body of Christ can be edified in unity and love.
- d. We are called to serve those we are prophesying to by always "*going low*" or adopting a posture of humility and gentleness. The person receiving the prophetic word should always leave feeling loved, valued, and cherished by God. Even when God reveals areas of sin or negative aspects, we are to speak in the opposite spirit, offering grace and restoration. Instead of simply pointing out flaws, we speak life and hope, washing them with the healing water of God's Word.

Example: If God reveals that someone is struggling with fear and anxiety, instead of merely calling out the fear, we could say, "I sense that you've been battling fear, but I also see God lifting that burden off of you. He's calling you into a season of peace, where His love will cast out all fear. You are deeply cherished by Him, and He is going to surround you with His peace in a new way." This approach addresses the issue but emphasizes God's heart for their restoration and peace.

- e. We should always operate in humility, recognizing that we won't always get everything right. There may be times when someone has difficulty receiving the word you've spoken, even if you feel 100% confident that you heard from God. In those moments, avoid defending your word. Instead, choose humility and graciously allow the person to disregard it if they feel it doesn't resonate with them.
- f. Avoid using rigid or authoritative phrases like "*Thus saith the Lord.*" Instead, use more humble and invitational language such as, "*I sense the Lord is saying...*," "*I feel like...*," or "*Does that make sense to you?*" This invites open conversation and respects the person's process of discerning God's voice.
- g. The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus, and it should always point people back to Him. Our prophetic words should draw attention to Him, leading others to worship and honor Him, not us.

Guidelines For Prophetic Ministry

Do's

- Encourage, strengthen, and comfort others with the love of Jesus, ensuring that each word you speak reflects His heart.
- Our prophetic words, as guided by the Holy Spirit, should align with the truth of Scripture, confirming who we are in Christ and who Christ is, as revealed in the Bible. Any word that contradicts Scripture should be discarded.
- Deliver everything in love. Above all else, we want every person to feel the deep, unconditional love of Jesus
- Speak the Word of Christ over them. Let your words wash them with the living water of His Word, bringing healing and hope.
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- Strive to act naturally, making eye contact when appropriate, and avoid over-spiritualizing your language. Keep the communication sincere and grounded.
- Be sensitive to the person's reactions as they receive prophetic ministry, ensuring that you honor their process and emotional state.
- Foster a spirit of teamwork, supporting one another in delivering prophetic ministry with unity and love
- Open and close your ministry session with prayer, inviting God's presence and covering over the time spent ministering
- Always assume that the person you're ministering to has a personal history with Jesus. Avoid making assumptions about their level of spiritual maturity, as this can be deeply disrespectful.

Do Not's

- Do not rebuke anyone and leave them feeling discouraged. Our goal is to strengthen, encourage, and build up, not to correct. Please avoid correctional prophecy.
- Do not lay hands on anyone without first asking for their permission. Respect their boundaries and personal space.
- Do not speak warnings of upcoming "demonic attacks" during prophetic ministry. Focus on bringing hope and encouragement.
- Do not prophesy specific dates, (mates) relationships, pregnancies, or ministry offices.
 - **Dates** – Example: "On June 24th 2030 you will..."
 - **Mates** – Example: "God says you're going to marry this specific person"
 - **Babies** – Example: "God says you will have a baby soon."
 - **Office Calls** – Avoid declaring specific ministry offices like apostle, prophet, teacher, pastor, or evangelist.
- Refrain from speaking out loud in tongues during ministry, as it can be distracting to others.
- Avoid physical manifestations or dramatic gestures that might take the focus away from the message or make others feel uncomfortable.
- Do not flatter or exaggerate a prophetic word to make it sound more impressive. Be truthful and authentic in what you share.