

The Purpose of Prophecy

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We're all called to bring the Kingdom of God to earth - to establish the ways of God here and now. We pray like Jesus taught "Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." We're called to be image-bearers - looking like Christ in our actions and speech. Well Jesus prophesied quite a bit. Jesus, according to Hebrews the first-born among many brothers and sisters. Jesus told us that we would do more and even greater things than He did - why so that the world would KNOW the love and power of God! The Spirit is preparing a Bride for Jesus! Isaac's servant (un-named goes to get a bride for Jacob, Isaac's son) In the same way, the Spirit of God is "going to get" a bride for Jesus. The Spirit does that through three ways: A) His rehman word - powerful unique rare visitations / Him to a person / one to one. B) The Word People are given a scripture or read a scripture and heavens' reality surges through their veins! LIFE confronts a dead spirit and invites them to be born again! Or even a scripture can bring truth to certain situation a believer is facing; that's the Spirit preparing a bride that is holy and dedicated to Him. C) the Spirit speaks thru an individual (Pastor, Friend, random person at the store or park / out in public) That random person that speaks to you and confirms something God is wanting you to think about or obey, that's prophecy.

prophecy: speaking in human words, what God, miraculously spontaneously brings to mind. - Wayne Grudem

In past teachings, I have described **prophecy as God's Spirit giving you and me God's perspective on a situation so faith is built up and obedience can follow.**

The purpose of prophecy falls under the banner of the purpose of all spiritual gifts. It is meant to glorify God by encouraging and building up someone - bringing them closer to Jesus. Prophecy like all gifts are given to lead people into a deeper love of Jesus the Son of God! Heb 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Jesus is so beautiful so amazing so powerful so radiant and perfect in all of His ways and when we are prompted by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, to encourage someone it always brings them closer to Jesus or more surrendered to Jesus Lordship or BOTH :)

Im going to spend 15 min teaching on the person of the Holy Spirit - who He is and His role in just a second. But first let's begin with the Trinity bc we can't teach on prophecy or the gifts of the Spirit without first stating who He is in context of the Triune Godhead.

We serve a Triune God who is three in one Father Holy Spirit and Son. They are equally God yet unique in their role and person.

God the Father is the great architect of creation, redemption and consumption who plans, directs and sends. The Son and the Holy Spirit are willingly subordinate to Him in role even while equal in deity.

God the Son (Jesus) obeys the Father, accomplishes redemption and with the Father sends the Holy Spirit to apply the work He has begun. In all things Jesus glorifies the Father.

God the Holy Spirit brings to completion the work planned by the Father and begun by the Son. In all things He works to glorify the Son.

This is consistent with James White, Bruce Ware, Wayne Grudem, Ravi Zacharias, Jack Hayford and many other theologians who've studied the Bible extensively.

The person of the Holy Spirit - my teaching from last HS night
HERE

We can see in Romans 8:26-28, 16:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-4 that we as believers are assigned a role in Spiritual Warfare - that we are to be filled with the Spirit of TRUTH so that we can overcome lies in our own lives but also so that we can overcome lies that other people have chosen to believe.

Every word I've ever given to someone somehow brings them closer to Jesus in relationship and closer to fulfilling their destiny - their specific God-given purpose.

THREE IMPORTANT TRUTHS to set the foundation before I teach

We should know first that

1. Christ's work on the cross is complete. Don't feel you're not good enough to be prophetic. Your not good enough to even be saved! None of us are JESUS IS and HIS work is complete. Matt. 16:19; Colossians 2:14-15 We receive; we don't achieve. All gifts are grace gifts. A gift isn't earned, it's received with gratitude then enjoyed.
2. There are two realities / two realms we exist in Natural & Supernatural 2 Cor. 4:18 "We do not look at things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary but the things that are unseen are eternal." We are spiritual beings having an earthly experience. Prophecy helps us zoom out and see how temporal things are.
3. God is always wanting to speak and reveal. The question is ... are we, His people listening?

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Prophecy is getting God's perspective on a current situation and bringing it our reality for the encouragement of people in their faith. It's given so that obedience can follow.

Often when someone is prophesied to, it's because they need a boost of courage in a certain aspect of their life/faith. There's an area / a thing that they are praying about and wanting direction or discernment; they are needing a boost of courage to take that step. Prophecy gives that needed boost!

Office of Prophet *versus* Being Prophetic

We are not all called to the office of Prophet but we can all be prophetic in a sense. We all can hear from God. In John 10, Jesus makes that clear. Yet, we're not all give the gift of prophecy; as we talked about earlier, each gift is given by the Spirit to believers and not all are given the same gifts. Ephesians and 1 Corinthians makes that very clear.

Eph. 4:11-12 tells us that Jesus gave these 5 Ministry Gifts TO THE CHURCH - to believers: "He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of the Son of God that will be mature and full grown in the Lord, collectively measuring up to the full stature of Christ."

The OFFICE of Prophet is given *by Jesus* as a gift to the church - to believers. We are not all called to that but that does not mean we shouldn't all aspire to hear from God and ask God to give us a prophetic life. We can and should all be asking God to make us a prophetic people - people who hear words of wisdom, words of knowledge for people so that we can reveal God's love for people.

Prophecy Reconciles People To God

Our goal is to reconcile people who are far from God back to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 tells us the mission of every believer "All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to Him. For God's Spirit was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others!"

Many times when I prophecy to people I help them see that their sin doesn't have to keep them from God. They can be reconciled.

The same Holy Spirit that was IN Christ is IN you. Jesus makes that clear to us in John 14-17.

Prophecy Makes You More Effective

In reconciling people to God, God's Spirit can give you a word of wisdom for someone, making you 100X more effective than you would've been withOUT the prophetic gift.

Woman at the well story. Jesus prophesied to her.

She recognized

God KNEW her. Every mistake. Every dream in her heart. Every shame-filled memory of men rejecting her. Jesus loved her and gave her respect and saw her as a woman worthy of love. In one conversation, He was healing wounds that took years to create.

God LOVED her despite her mistakes

God WANTED A BETTER FUTURE for her. "One day you and others will worship"

Prophecy also makes you more effective in simply walking out your calling.

HEAR FROM GOD and take THE path that HE has for you. Take the guess work out!

Prophecy is to be inspired never forced.

It should always be simply inspired by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21 "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

The word "inspire" has it's root form in the word *breathe*. When we see the word "inspired" in the Bible it's indicated God's breath or unction. In fact, under this unction from the Spirit, Peter preached and 3,000 were saved on the day of pentecost.

Ananias was inspired by the Holy Spirit to minister to Saul - to give him the Gospel - even though Saul was a terrorist! He was literally terrorizing anyone who claimed to be a part of "THE WAY" or a "Christian" or "Christ-follower!" Let's read about this encounter in Acts 9.

ACTS 9 "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly

a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah."

Prophecy enables us to see what GOD wants us to see in someone.

At first, Ananias is baffled that God would choose Saul - Saul of all people - to be a leader in His Kingdom! But notice how he addresses after he hears from God and makes the journey. I would imagine that in the time it took him to travel to see Saul, God had softened his heart to view Saul as a man in need of a savior — just like he was. How did Ananias address Saul after getting a prophetic vision of him and his future? "**Brother** Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

When the Spirit of Prophecy (which is the Spirit of Jesus) fills your heart and mind, you see people the way Jesus does - as a potential brother in Christ - whether they are a criminal on death row, a teenager in foster care, an angry co-worker, a disgruntled customer, whoever they are, they have the potential to be your brother or sister in Christ! The Spirit of Prophecy enables you to see that! WOW!

Prophecy adds faith to our hearts (giver and recipient) much like oil is added to an engine

Prophecy adds faith to the person being prophesied to - faith is built up to proceed and take courage to do what God is asking that person to do

The 10 cities word those words gave me

1 insight from heaven on WHAT my calling is. And 2. Gave me courage and faith to DO IT. To carry it out to step into that destiny

The woman I prophesied to in chick fil A

The young man at Bob Evans. He now had the faith to KEEP GOING even though it was hard!

The prophetic is often the tipping point for someone to enter their destiny.

A few stories

- The man who messaged me about his gift in music - was in jail last ten years
- The two people who prophesied to me about planting 10 churches - it gave me the courage I needed to say "yes"
- The word I gave my neighbor (before knowing she was my neighbor) about her new season of mentoring people in their money. She LOVES her new job, sets her own hours and makes way more money than she used to. That prophetic vision I had of her at her dining table gave her confirmation to say "yes" to the idea God placed in her heart.

Prophecy helps a believer go from idea to obedience. It's often the tipping point for someone. Around 2012, Jan Painter prophesied to me about real estate saying I would have many keys to many properties. At that point, I only had a dream of using real estate to bring in passive income for orphan care. But after that word, I traveled in Warren; drove thru the streets, found a house, got advice from some podcasts, took out a loan, bought it, went there, spent some late nights laying tile, painting walls and fixing it up. That began my journey with Kings Home Properties. The mission of that company - buy a home, give a home. 10% of all proceeds fund orphan care - HOME SWEET HOME - in China. I slowly assembled a crew of guys that renovate the home. Me and Danielle go in and decorate and thrift shop all the pictures and tables and such and it's FUN! That word from Jan Painter was the tipping point - it prompted me past IDEA stage and into OBEDIENCE stage.

What will YOUR prophetic word help someone to accomplish?!

Prophecy reveals ALL the options.

Sometimes the option God wants us to see is hidden to our mind; it's hidden due to our own cultural norms that have formed expectations and habits and honestly these things inhibit what our minds can imagine. But Ephesians 2 says that GOD can do MORE than we can ask or imagine! A prophetic word reveals all the options - enlightening us to a possibly that was formerly unknown to us!

SO MANY STORIES I COULD TELL!

Again what's the purpose of prophecy? It gets us on the same frequency as God's Spirit. It reveals God's heart Gods love towards that person.

Project comes in words of knowledge, words of wisdom
It gives faith to people. "Do not despise prophecy"
"Seek the gift of property.

Everybody can move in the prophetic. But not everyone is a prophet on the office sense
Give illustration here:

Aging he purpose of the prophetic is what we're talking about.
Don't think that when you're prophesied to, you don't just wait on God to do it.

Don't wait on God when he's waiting on you. Prophecy gets you **ACTING WALKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS**

ILL> prophetic is the Maps app on your phone. But you still gotta get in the car. Fill it w gas and **START DRIVING!**

TEST The Prophecy Pray it through!

1 Timothy 1:18
You do warfare with the prophecies you have received.
Announce what the Lord has spoken.

Prophecy comes out of relationship

Jesus made deep relationships with His disciples. His mentoring them and teaching them to do the work of the ministry was His greatest work.

John 17

"I have completed my work (he hasn't gone to the cross yet)
Made disciples

How can you release the heart of God is you're not talking to God ongoing basis?

We've got to abide with Jesus as He taught us to in John 14

We've got to tune up and stay in tune with the Holy Spirit.

I went to see the Cleveland Orchestra a month in February with my wife. They were amazing! If you've never been, you **NEED** to go. It is a spiritual experience, at least it was for me - to see these exceptional musicians all paying such close attention to the conductor and listening to one another and the **SONG** as a whole.

They were all executing what I've told every music student I've ever taught "Half of playing is listening. You **MUST** be listening to the song as a whole - what all the other musicians are playing to ensure you're complimenting them and complimenting the song and not complicating the song."

I've always loved the sound of an orchestra tuning up. I want you to listen to this.

Play "Orchestra Tuning Up"

THAT is the sound of you and I tuning up with the Holy Spirit.
Play it again.

That is the sound of you and I tuning into the Holy Spirit and saying "Holy Spirit, what do you want to say today? Who do you want me to talk to and give life to today?"

Prophecy enables people to see God's perspective. It brings Heavens purpose to earth.

Nehemiah 13:2

It can reveal

God can change any plans that Satan had and turn them into blessing.

Acts 9:17

God sends Ananias w a prophetic word. A vision. To minister to Saul the leader of ISIS, the killer of Christians. HS asks him to give him a prophetic word and pray for him

THIS IS THE MOMENT THAT PAUL CHANGED

Prohecy and moving in the supernatural power of God such as miracles can take a heart of stone and make it clay and change a mans destiny forever.

Who knows if you're ministering to the next Apostle Paul!

It is the HOLY SPIRIT, the Spirit of the Lord, that comes UPON you to empower you to speak the truth in love - to set the captive free - to heal the wounded.

I want to read to you Isaiah 61. God prompted me to read this last Sunday but I want to read this today as we are making ourselves aware - we are reminding ourselves of our calling and what the Lord wants from us. Let's stand and read this together. Then we're going to move into a brief excercise to activate everyone - which simply means - we're going to give you a chance to give a prophetic word to someone and trust that the Holy Spirit is speaking through you.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV): The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified!"

Activation

Draw a picture

A scripture

A song title

An item (tangible)

Let's spend more time getting heaven to earth... like Jesus did.

God super meets our natural when Heaven touches earth and that's what Jesus did!

What to do next? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

A prophetic word given to you is like a seed. You don't bury it you plant it. They're like seeds.

Seed to root not seed to fruit. - Justin Boyle's

Intimacy brings authority. Esther. Prayer>God's Kingdom>Earthly Change!

John 15:15

No longer do I call you servants but I call you friends.

The line is always open. The phone is off the hook.

The people at Corinth had the gifts but not the fruit of the Spirit. They were operating the gifts given to them but didn't have the character to sustain maturity and spiritual health. Paul writes them inspired by the Spirit and these words teach us centuries later.

1 Cor 12 & 13

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

One Body with Many Members

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all

apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my

No matter how much you learn, you do NOT know it all. Always walk in humility and love and always in submission to the authority of the house you're in. Your gifts don't mean squat if you don't walk in love and submission to your spiritual authority.