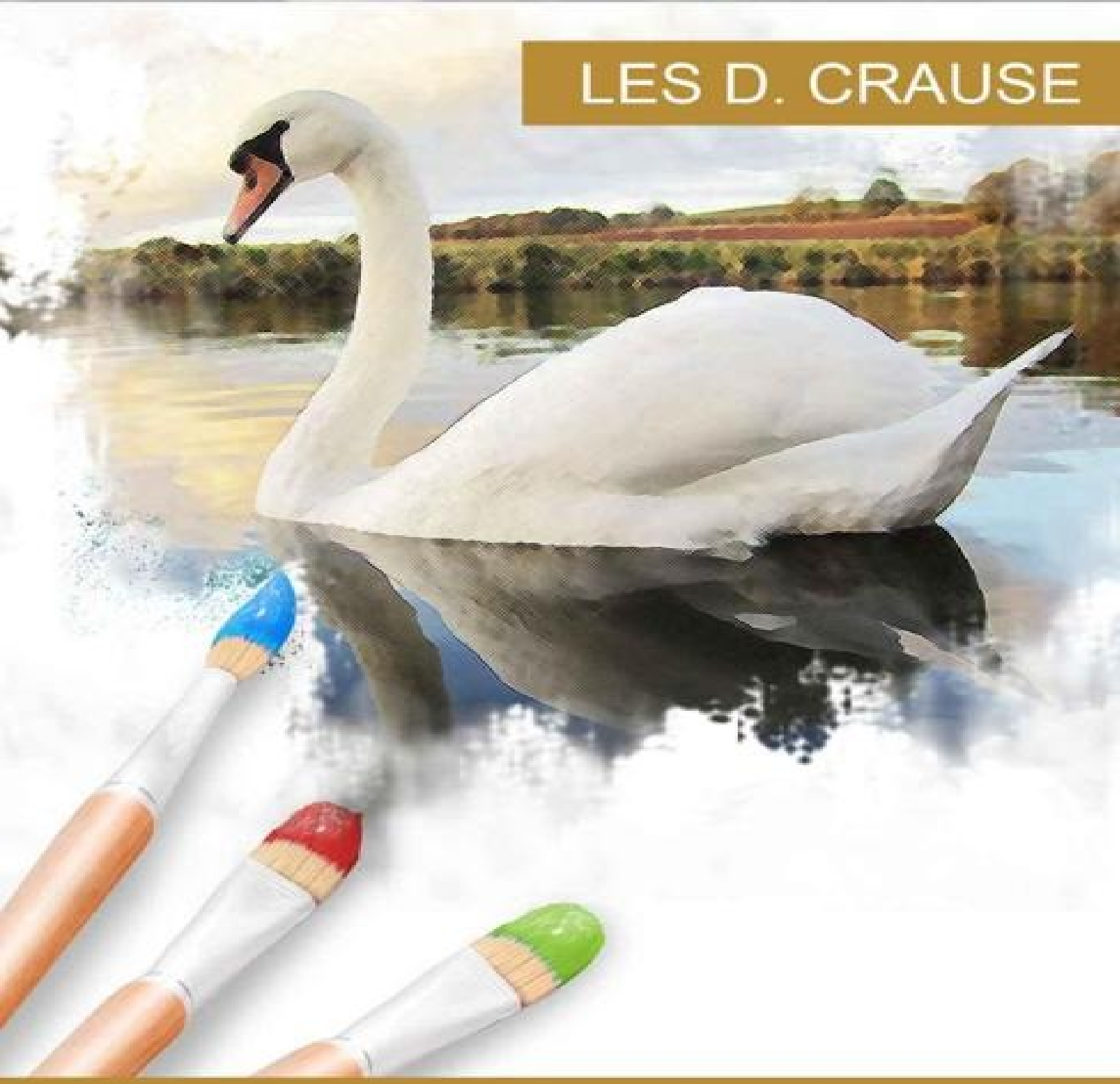
LES D. CRAUSE



PERFECTING YOUR PROPHETIC MINISTRY

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Perfecting Your Prophetic Ministry

By Les D. Crause

Perfecting Your Prophetic Ministry - Kindle Edition

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5663 Balboa Ave #416,
San Diego,
California 92111,
United States of America

1st Printing March 2013

Published by **Global Business Resources International**
E-mail Address: admin@gbr-i.com
Web Address: www.gbri-bookshop.com

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Scripture quotations are taken from the Global Business Ministries (GBM) version of the Bible.

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Section 01 – Everyone Can Prophesy

Chapter 01 – Everyone Can Prophesy

There is a new move afoot in the Body of Christ today. It has been going on for a while and you are probably quite aware of it. It is called the Prophetic Movement, and it has been spreading like wildfire amongst churches of all denominations.

I don't think there is anybody out there who calls themselves a Christian today, who has not heard of the Prophetic Ministry. Or they have somehow been touched or affected by this new move of the Prophetic Movement.

The Charismatic Movement

This new movement is something very similar to one that took place some time ago. If you are little bit older you will likely remember that movement. It was called the Charismatic Movement.

The Charismatic Movement was when God began to baptize people in the Holy Spirit in all the different denominations. In the early years, speaking in tongues and the Pentecostal phenomena like the baptism of the Holy Spirit, was taught and embraced only by what was then known as the Pentecostal churches.

But with the Charismatic Movement, God began to break down the walls and barriers. Suddenly people began to speak in tongues and receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, from all the churches that some people didn't even think were saved, like the Catholic church.

The Catholic Charismatics became a huge group. But who would have thought that Catholics would speak in tongues, because you might think,

"Catholics aren't saved are they?"

Well God seemed to think so because He began to fill them with His Holy Spirit.

Then the Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalians and all the people who didn't know anything that us 'superior' Pentecostals knew, suddenly began to get filled with the Spirit. They began to speak in tongues and manifest all the phenomena

of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

That Charismatic Movement did eventually come to an end, because it did not have the structure, the control and the right teaching that was needed. But that movement was not started by the Pentecostal churches. It was a move of God by His Spirit, and in fact most of it took place in the non-Pentecostal churches.

Move Towards Prophetic Gifts

God is now doing a new move today that is called the Prophetic Movement. And this movement is very much like the Charismatic Movement, but the emphasis now is not on speaking in tongues.

The emphasis now is on flowing in prophetic gifts; in the gift of prophecy, revelation and all the functions that we call prophetic ministry.

The same thing is happening again today. Everybody is jumping into this river and trying to become part of it. There are some people rising up and trying to lead it. The so-called ‘superior prophets’ are trying to control it, but they don’t know what they are doing.

Confusion in the Ranks

The Charismatic Movement went into confusion through the lack of leadership. It went into excess because every single person was prophesying, speaking in tongues and getting involved in the gifts of the Spirit.

The trouble is they didn’t know what they were doing. It is because the Pentecostal churches were keeping it locked up by themselves.

The same thing is happening with the Prophetic Movement. It is going rife and spreading like wildfire. And you know what happens with a wildfire if it gets out of control.

So is there something wrong with the fire? No, it is God’s fire and He is the one who started this movement. But the idea is to take this fire and to channel and control it; to bring it to its maximum capacity. In this way God can truly bring His church to the place that He wants it to be.

It is time that somebody sets in order the principles that are needed for people to get into this prophetic move; and to begin to function in the Prophetic Ministry.

Divided Opinions

Now there are two groups in this movement. There are those who think that the prophetic gift is something that everybody has.

Then there are those who believe that prophets are a unique little group that God has set apart for Himself. They say that they alone are the ones who have the right and the ability to prophesy.

It is kind of like the Pentecostal churches who thought they had it all together. And the other people thought,

“We don’t need the restrictions of you Pentecostals. We can do it ourselves.”

The Prophetic Movement is following the exact same route. But you know it is a move of God, and it is time we channel this wildfire of God and bring it into an order that He can use.

We need to do that rather than letting it burn itself out and go into confusion, and have Satan take this wildfire and use it to cause damage.

A New Opportunity

Now there is the difference between prophetic office and those who have stood in the office as leaders of prophets; and the Prophetic Movement which is spreading amongst all believers.

There is something new afoot that has never ever happened before. In today’s age God is giving the prophetic gifts and the Prophetic Ministry to every single believer, not only to select individuals.

It is like in the Old Testament, when God chose specific individuals that He raised up and used, and anointed with His power. But remember how on the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up and spoke from the prophet Joel where God said,

In the last days I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your

daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions:

These are all a manifestation of what started back there at Pentecost. But we are in a new era where God is building a new church that has not existed before. We are living in the church of the End Times, which is far greater even than the church in the early days of the apostles.

We are living in the exciting End Times, where we are part of this new thing that God is doing. He is now pouring out His Spirit on all flesh. And He is offering prophetic ministry and prophetic ability to every single believer, not only to a select few.

Yours for the Taking

If you are reading this book right now, I want to tell you that God is offering you the ability and the opportunity to flow in the Prophetic Ministry. You don't have to sit and think,

"I wonder if I am called to be a prophet."

It doesn't matter; if you are a born again child of God, filled with the Spirit and anointed by Him, you have the right and the ability to enter into the Prophetic Ministry.

I am going to show you how to do it. I will show you the right way to do it, as well as explain to you the wrong way to do it.

I am going to give you a structure to work in, to take that wildfire and keep it channelled. Then God is going to lift you up, and He is going to use you mightily for His glory in this End Times church in which we live.

Don't you want to be a part of this? I am so glad that I am part of it.

My Early Experiences

My first experiences with all of these things began years ago as God began to prepare me. And I'm sure that you will also find yourself in the same situation.

I have taught a series called ‘Developing Your Spiritual Gifts’. In this series I explained some of my own experiences in some detail and how I developed all of these gifts. I am going to be offering this to you as part of this brand new course on how to develop your prophetic ministry, and how to enter into this new thing that God has for you.

Learning Tongues and Interpretation

My first experience with these things was that I couldn’t speak in tongues, even though I had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I have shared my story in many places of how I cried out to the Lord and said,

“Lord, I wish you would give me the ability to speak in tongues.”

But obviously some people get it. Most other people seemed to get it, but I just couldn’t. That was until the Lord showed me that everybody can speak in tongues.

Well that first day that I spoke in tongues was wonderful. In fact I got so carried away I spoke in tongues every day, sometimes for hours at a time. I wanted to keep doing it in case it stopped working.

I appreciated it; it was an awesome gift. But after a while it wasn’t enough. People started to say,

“You know you pray in tongues for hours, and we are sitting and waiting and don’t have a clue what you are saying. You are having a glorious time all by yourself with the Lord, but we don’t know what you are saying in the spirit.”

Then I saw the Scripture that said if you speak in tongues you should pray that you would be able to interpret as well.

I remember how when I went into ministry and I was a pastor of a church, I could speak in tongues but I couldn’t interpret. Sometimes someone would speak in tongues in a meeting, and the people were waiting for me as the pastor to interpret the tongue but I couldn’t.

I had to wait for somebody else to interpret the tongue and I thought,

“I wish I had the gift of interpretation.”

Well I discovered that everybody can have the gift of interpretation, and I also learned how to do that.

Learning Prophecy

Then I wanted to go to the next stage. I thought,

“Why should I wait to speak in tongues and interpret? Why can’t I just open my mouth and speak prophetic words in English?”

The Lord showed me that I could do that as well. Way back there already the Lord gave me those Scriptures. At the time I thought that maybe God was just highlighting those Scriptures especially for me because I needed them. They were to show me that I could speak in tongues, that I could interpret and that I could prophesy.

But in actual fact God was showing me back there, something that I have only come to fully realize now and which I want to share with you now. What God shared with me applies to you and to every single believer. Every single person can enter into these gifts.

Prophetic Spiritual Gifts

So what are these gifts that we call the prophetic spiritual gifts? There are nine spiritual gifts in all, and in fact six of them are involved in the Prophetic Ministry.

If you think about it, it is quite amazing that two thirds of all the spiritual gifts revolve around the Prophetic Ministry. Don’t you maybe think that God had the idea that the Prophetic Ministry was going to be a very big thing in the Body of Christ?

He gave more gifts related to this ministry than to any other. Have you thought about that?

The Gifts of Utterance

What are the gifts that are involved in the Prophetic Ministry? For a start there are the gifts of utterance. I have taught on this in some detail especially in my

series called ‘Using Your Ministry Gifts’.

All of these are in fact going to tie together into a course that we are going to put together. It is going to teach you how to rise up and become very effective in your prophetic ministry, and to be mightily used by God in it.

The three gifts of utterance are of course tongues, interpretation and prophecy. These are the ones I have just mentioned. And if you are going to get into prophetic ministry, you should be able to speak in tongues, you should be able to interpret tongues, and you should be able to prophesy.

I know we speak of prophetic ministry and we think of only the gift of prophecy. But actually all three of the vocal gifts are involved in the ministry of prophecy.

The Gifts of Revelation

Next there are the three gifts of revelation. They are the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom and the discerning of spirits. These are all gifts by which God gives us revelation.

The word of knowledge is where God gives us revelation about circumstances that exist right now, or that existed in the past.

The word of wisdom is where God gives us knowledge of what His purpose is. It points to the future and often has a predictive or a foretelling function involved.

The third gift of revelation is the gift of discerning of spirits, where we can detect the presence of evil or of good. We can be aware of demonic spirits, or we can be aware of the presence of angels. We can actually detect the condition of the spirit of a person that we are ministering to.

All of these gifts tie together into what we call the Prophetic Ministry.

Scriptural Proof They Are Yours

So now can everyone flow in these gifts? The Scripture says,

Follow after love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

This Scripture does not say,

“Follow after God, and wait for Him to give you gifts if He feels like it. And if He happens to give it to you, you might be lucky enough to operate in this ministry.”

No, it doesn’t say that anywhere in the Word. What it does say is that you need to get yourself flowing out in love to others and get an earnest, passionate desire that says,

“I have to have this! I’m not going to give up until I get it.”

If you do that God is going to give it to you. But I can show you from the Scripture that the three vocal gifts are yours. I mentioned already how the Lord showed them to me, but let me show it to you from the Word.

In 1 Corinthians 14:5 Paul says,

I want you all to speak with tongues

Then he says,

But I would prefer it if you prophesied

We will get to the prophecy part shortly. He continues and says,

For he that prophesies is greater than he that speaks with tongues, unless he interprets, that the church might be built up.

You can see that he has mentioned all three gifts of utterance in this Scripture. And in verse 13 of that chapter he says,

For this reason, anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.

I think that God is saying here,

“You can have the gift of interpretation too.”

In fact you should pray for it and ask for it, especially if you speak in tongues. If you can speak in tongues, the next thing you should be praying for is,

“Lord I want to be able to interpret.”

Then in verse 31 he says,

For you may all prophesy one by one, so that everyone may learn and everyone may be comforted.

You may all speak in tongues, you may all interpret and you may all prophesy. That **all** refers to you if you are a child of God. That means that the main prophetic vocal gifts are available to you as a believer. You don’t have to sit and wonder,

“Did God call me to the prophetic or not?”

God called you to salvation. You are a born again believer and you have the right to enter into these gifts.

Entering in By Choice

If you earnestly desire to move into the gifts of revelation, as you reach out in passionate desire and faith to the Lord and embrace these gifts, you will get them. They are available to you.

You say, “Okay that’s wonderful; I have reached out and believed. You have convinced me now. I believe that I can do the Prophetic Ministry.

“I believe that I can interpret tongues and prophesy. I can get gifts of revelation and God can give me the word of wisdom. I believe that He can give me the word of knowledge, and He can help me to detect the presence and the condition of spirits.

“But how will I know when I have received them? Does something grab a hold of me?”

Let me ask you this question? Whenever you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, did God force you to speak in tongues?

Well some people had a very strong experience where they had words coming into their minds. Some of them found that they started to jabber and stutter and shiver, and there were all sorts of experiences involved.

Developing Through Practice

At the end of the day though, as you have now matured, when do you speak in tongues? You speak in tongues when you open your mouth and choose to do so. The Holy Spirit simply gives you the ability and the power, and over time you develop that ability to speak in tongues.

You couldn't do it clearly at the beginning. You may have been like a baby that says things like mama or dada until it begins to form clearer words. It takes time to practice and develop it until you get better at it.

The first time you tried to interpret tongues you probably only spoke one or two words. Then your mind went blank, you thought you were talking rubbish and you stopped.

But now as you have developed it and become more confident in it, you can speak. As you do so Scriptures start to come to your mind. You start to see a picture and you describe it, and before you know it you have spoken for a couple of minutes interpreting a tongue.

It is the same as the gift of prophecy. The first time you opened your mouth to speak a word of prophecy you probably copied something you heard somebody else say.

When I was younger all the prophecies I ever heard were in King James English. They went something like,

"Thus saith the Lord, behold I say unto thee.."

It sounds very spiritual. It doesn't matter; you can start out that way. But after a while you get a bit more confident. You start to develop your own style of prophecy and you learn to use and develop that gift.

It is exactly the same with all of the gifts. And I am going to explain this to you in a lot of detail. I am going to take you by the hand and show you step by step how to develop these gifts.

All you need to do is earnestly desire them. But you need somebody to train you in them and to help you in them. You need teaching on how to use them correctly.

Chapter 02 – The Importance of Training

Now here is the most important thing of all; and probably the biggest failure of all when it comes to these manifestations of the Spirit.

It was probably the biggest failure in the Charismatic Movement because there was no clear teaching on how these gifts operated. The same applies to the Prophetic Movement because there is no clear teaching on how the Prophetic Ministry operates.

You see God's Spirit always operates through His Word. And if you don't have a knowledge of the Word, your ability to use the gifts of the Spirit and the revelations that you get in the Spirit becomes restricted and limited.

The more Word you know the better you can function in these gifts. The more teaching and the greater amount of Word that you have in you, the more effective you become in using these spiritual gifts. You need to have teaching on how to flow in the Prophetic Ministry.

Training from an Experienced Person

You also need someone who has had a bit of experience to train you. You need to learn from somebody who has made all the mistakes; someone who has been there and done that.

You need somebody who knows how you feel; who knows your insecurities, your doubts and your fears. This person can encourage you and bring you out. Or he can be somebody who has the courage to say to you,

"Okay, just slow down there. I know you are keen and excited. I know you want to conquer the world and speak out everything that comes into your mind, but you need to wait a bit."

It depends on what kind of person you are. The expressives need somebody to pull back on the reins a little. The analyticals need somebody to kick them in the

backside a bit to get them moving.

You see they are usually feeling afraid and insecure, and they think,

“I have to get it perfect; I have to get it right. I need to know the words to speak before I open my mouth, so I’m going to figure out the whole prophecy in my mind before I begin to speak.”

They will never prophesy like that. You need somebody to train you in the Prophetic Ministry; somebody who is good at it.

You Need to Practice

Then you need to practice to make it perfect. That means that you don’t join a Pentecostal church, because these days it has become out of vogue to give prophecies in Pentecostal churches.

You have to first go and speak to the elder or whoever is in charge and say,

“By the way, God has given me a prophetic word and this is what He says. Can I share it, please?”

The elder will then decide whether he feels that it is good enough for you to share the word or not before he lets you share it. Well how can you share a prophetic word, when all God has said to you is,

“Behold my child I am with you.”

Sometimes that is all He gives you in a prophecy. Or He gives you a simple little picture and says,

“Speak that and I will give you more.”

So how can you go and tell somebody,

“God has given me this and I don’t know what is coming afterwards.”

They are not going to let you prophesy.

In most so-called Pentecostal churches that have encouraged this in the past,

they have now started to squash it and say,

“You are not allowed to prophesy.”

That is why the Prophetic Movement, just like the Charismatic Movement, has started to spring up in all the other churches that know nothing about it.

Learning in a Safe Environment

People are getting the liberty to do it. Or they are standing up and doing it before somebody catches them and says,

“Okay, keep quiet now. That is enough; you are talking nonsense.”

Either way people are having a problem learning to flow in these gifts. They need a safe environment where they are allowed to practice without being condemned. They need a place where they are allowed to practice with somebody who can say,

“That is right; I feel the anointing on that. Yes, you spoke right. Come on, say some more. Bring it out. Don’t you realize you are prophesying? Say some more.”

Or you need someone to say,

“Slow down a bit now. I am sure God gave you something, but I think you are adding a little bit more of your own stuff there. Let’s just see what the Word teaches.”

You see you need somebody to control you, to teach and train you. You need a chance to make mistakes in a safe environment where nobody gets harmed.

You know at one stage my one daughter decided she wanted to do hairdressing. She was very zealous but still very much a learner and she needed somebody to practice on. So I said to her,

“Look, my hair needs cutting. Come and give it a try and cut my hair.”

She did a valiant job. She really tried her best and left me with very little hair in the wrong places. It took me a while to get back to looking normal again. But

you know I gave her a chance to practice.

After that time she got a little more confident. She got better, and eventually I could rely on her to do my hair all the time. In fact she got really good at it. But you see if I hadn't given her that chance in the first place, she would never have learned to do it right.

We must give people an opportunity to make mistakes. Then we must say,

"Okay, that was great and you tried hard. You did something wrong here, but let me show you how to do it right."

Then let's try it again until we get it right.

You need to develop your prophetic gifts, and you need to be trained in how to do it.

The Power of Your Mind

It is necessary for you to get direction in this ministry. And here is where the dangers lie and where things have gone astray. You see the Prophetic Ministry operates through the mind.

Now for a lot of the vocal gifts, speech comes from a deeper place than the mind. So when you speak you tend to speak without thinking. This means that very often prophecy is less subject to deception and people going astray, unless a person stands up to prophesy with their mind.

That is why it is better for a person to learn to speak the first thing that comes into their mind. Then once they have spoken that speak the next thing that comes into their mind. You see as they are doing that the Holy Spirit can begin to work in them.

But when a person wants to get the whole prophecy in their mind up front, that is when they are going to get into deception. This is because they are going to say,

"Oh yes, I can see sister so-and-so there tonight. I can see that she really needs a rebuke from the Lord. Do you see the way she is dressed tonight? It is disgusting!

“Also I have heard about that person’s life. I have heard some stories about him. I think God wants to speak to him tonight.”

We get these ideas in our minds, and we stand up and prophesy what **we** think God would say to that person.

The Need to Be Spontaneous

That is the danger of the mind. But when you speak a word of prophecy spontaneously by the Spirit, you may even start out with your mind. You may think,

“I am going to say this to that person.”

But when you start you find yourself saying the total opposite. When this happens you know that this is God.

There is a danger of the mind, because Satan has access to your mind and he can put thoughts into it. But when you are speaking spontaneously under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you don’t have time to think what you are saying. Satan also doesn’t have time to put those extra thoughts into your mind.

That is why people must learn to prophesy spontaneously and not to try and work it out. They must not go to the elder and tell him what they are going to prophesy. That is when people will get into deception.

Satan’s Two Weapons

Satan has two weapons that he uses against you to make you ineffective in your ministry. He will either push you beyond what God intended. Or he will try to discourage you from doing what God wants you to do. Whichever one works is the one he is going to use on you right now.

So he may push you to be a little bit overzealous and to go beyond what God intended. You will say a whole lot of things that God didn’t tell you to say.

You are going to open your big mouth and put your foot in it. You will make a fool of yourself and upset people. You will know that you have messed it up so badly that you are never going to want to do it again.

When this happens he has won hasn't he?

His other tactic is to put all the thoughts of fear into your mind. You will think,

"What if I say the wrong thing? What if this isn't from God? What if I say to a person, 'God says this,' and they say it isn't true?"

When this happens you now live in fear.

All of these things come because Satan attacks our minds. So in the Prophetic Ministry there is a danger of allowing our minds to take over, and allowing Satan to drive us or discourage us; to deceive us or to accuse us. These are his strongest weapons.

You Need a Covering

How do we overcome this?

The first and most important thing is that you need a covering of protection. You know when you are standing in the rain, the best thing to do is to hold up an umbrella. You put it over your head and let the rain hit the umbrella instead of hitting you.

It doesn't stop the rain from falling. But it stops you from getting wet and the umbrella takes the brunt of the rain. You need a person or persons who can be your umbrella of protection, when Satan begins to throw his hailstones at you and pour down the rain of his attack upon you.

You cannot stop the attack, but you can get under the umbrella and say,

"Okay I will wait until the rain stops."

Somebody is going to be there to protect you.

Covering for Women

Now I don't want you to misunderstand this and think that I am gender-based or biased in any way. But women have a far greater risk of this happening than men.

This goes right back to the Garden of Eden, where Satan came in and tempted Eve first. And then through Eve he tempted Adam. Since that time women have been more subject to deception. For this reason God has said that women should be under a covering of subjection to a man in their lives.

If you are a married woman that covering of protection is your husband. If you are not married, that covering of protection is going to be your father or your spiritual father. Either way there must be a person who can cover you and protect you from the attack of the enemy.

Most women are right-brained, and they tell us that the right brain is very intuitive. It is more open to allegorical thinking and revelation.

Men tend to be more left-brained and logical in their thinking, so they don't quickly respond to revelation. This means that men very often take a while to get going in prophetic ministry, because this ministry requires a lot of right-brained thinking.

Women are far more open to the prophetic. And you will find that the Prophetic Movement probably has more women in it than men.

This is because they are more ready to open their hearts wide. They are ready to hear from the Lord, and to just jump into the river and swim. Because of that they are more subject to the attack of the enemy to bring them under deception.

So if you are a woman and you move into this prophetic ministry, you are in great danger unless you are under some kind of covering of protection. You need to make sure that the enemy does not try and lead you astray either through deception or accusation.

Protection from the Body

You also need the protection of other believers and the protection of the Body. As different members of the Body work together the Body protects itself.

When you cut your finger, the Body immediately rallies together to heal that finger. So if you want to get involved in this ministry, don't think you can do it as a little solo job all by yourself. You need to be doing it in unity with other members of the Body of Christ.

You don’t have your own little private prophetic ministry time separated from the Body. Do you know what happens? Just about every person who claims to have the prophetic call ends up getting kicked out of their churches. And in rebellion they say,

“I’ll prove to that pastor that I can do it by myself!”

Off they go, trying to do it by themselves, and immediately getting into deception and going astray. Then they go and listen to all the false teachers out there who claim to be prophetic experts and get into even more deception.

This has caused confusion in the Prophetic Movement. And many of the so-called leaders who have risen up have been in deception themselves and are leading people astray.

We need the protection of the Body. We need sound and solid teaching for the Body of Christ.

The Stability of the Word

I am afraid that the greatest lack in most prophetic types is a lack of knowledge of the Word. Go and check it out and you will see.

You know we have a little term that we have used. I know it is a derogatory term, but we say,

“These prophets are all flaky characters. They are unstable like the wind.”

Do you know why this is? It is because they don’t take the time to get into the Scriptures. They just thrive on emotion. They are like a person who never eats their meat and vegetables and just wants to live on the dessert. It is fun and exciting stuff. They say,

“Oh the Prophetic Ministry is so exciting! I’m having such a glorious time. I don’t have time to sit and read the Bible.”

If this is the way you think you are in danger. Without the Word you will go astray. The Word is your only stabilizing factor. And the Word of God and a solid, sound teaching of the principles of the Word is the only thing that will bring a stability to this new prophetic move of God.

Learn to Do it Right

The prophetic move is for you if you are a child of God. But before you jump into that water you need to learn how to swim. Have somebody to train you in the principles of swimming. Have a coach who will be there to watch you as you swim and make sure that you do it right.

Do it until you reach the place where you are confident enough to get in there on your own. Get trained properly and get into a right relationship with leadership. Perfect this ministry and become an instrument that God can use mightily for His glory.

As you get into that and become somebody that God can use, your spiritual life will become exciting. It is so wonderful to be used by the Lord. There is nothing like it in all the world.

Moving Higher

Then you will be ready for God to put His hand on you, to pull you out and say,

“Okay, now that you have learned to use this ministry correctly, I am going to take you to a higher level. I am going to allow you to specialize in this ministry, so that it is not just a general ministry that any believer can do. But I am going to give you a few things that other people can’t do.

“I am going to take you a little bit higher. I’m going to add extra things to you that are going to be more unique to you. I am going to set you in a higher place of leadership and make you one of my official prophets.”

You are going to move up into something much higher which is known as the Prophetic Office. But before you can even think of aiming for prophetic office, learn to flow correctly in the Prophetic Ministry.

Now this first section is only the introduction to this subject, and this is a whole new course that is being launched. We are going to take you by the hand and take you step by step. We are going to teach you all the principles that you need to learn, and will help you to develop your prophetic gifts.

We will help you to develop the Prophetic Ministry and will be there to correct

you when you go wrong. We are going to help you to rise up and take your place in the Body of Christ; to flow effectively in this ministry and to reach out and touch the lives of many people round about you and in this world.

Then if you are ready for it we will also be able to take you higher. But for now the Prophetic Ministry is for you. It is available to you and the river is flowing right now.

Are you ready to be trained to jump in and swim; and to become part of this new prophetic move that God is bringing upon His church?

Section 02 – What the Prophetic Ministry is

Chapter 03 – Hearing from God for Others

I want to start this section by sharing a couple of Scriptures with you from 1 Corinthians 14. Verse 5 says:

I want you all to speak with tongues, but I would prefer it if you prophesied: for he that prophesies is greater than he that speaks with tongues, unless he interprets, that the church might be built up.

Then verses 24 and 25 of the same chapter say this:

But if everyone prophesies, and there comes in one that does not believe, or [that is] uninformed, he is convicted by everyone, he is judged by everyone:
And so the secrets of his heart are made visible; and so falling down on [his] face he will worship God, and declare that God is really in you.

In the first section which was the introduction to this teaching, I showed you that there is a new Prophetic Movement that is taking place. I said that it is like the old Charismatic Movement, in that it is going to spread beyond the bounds of all church structures and denominations.

And in the time that we live in right now, God is offering every single true believer an opportunity to jump into this new movement; to learn to flow in prophetic ministry operations and functions.

Well I trust that after reading that introduction you are now convinced firstly that the new Prophetic Movement does exist and is taking place. And you are not only convinced that it exists, but you are convinced that you should be part of this move.

If you have come to that place, the chances are you are now in a position where you are saying,

“Okay I believe it is happening. I believe it is for me, but where do I start? How

do I jump into this new Prophetic Movement and become a part of it? How do I begin to function in it and enter into something that I haven't had until now?

"Do I wait for it to fall on me? Do I wake up in the middle of the night and suddenly I have it? How do I enter into this movement and become a part of it? How do I learn how to prophesy?"

As you can see from the title of this section, that is exactly what I am going to be covering here.

Now there are three questions that you can ask concerning the Prophetic Ministry and I am going to try and answer all three of those questions. They are:

1. What exactly is involved in prophetic ministry?
2. How can I learn to flow in this ministry?
3. Where do I start functioning in this ministry?

I would like to take each one of those questions and go into some detail in answering them for you.

Question 1 - What is the Prophetic Ministry?

To answer this question I am going to give you a very simple answer that will help keep you in balance. It will prevent you from going overboard and into excesses that many people have got into. It will also help to stop all the confusion.

When most people hear the word prophetic, prophet or prophesy, the immediate picture that comes to mind is somebody who predicts the future.

A prophet is normally considered someone who predicts something that is going to happen in the future. So the moment you speak about prophetic ministry, people have this idea that says,

"In order for me to flow in the Prophetic Ministry, I have to somehow learn to predict the future and tell people what the future holds for them. In short I have to become kind of like a fortune teller."

You would be surprised how rampant this is even in the Body of Christ. And whenever we think of prophets or prophetic ministry, this is the first thing that

comes to mind.

But it is not true at all. In fact that is hardly the major function of the Prophetic Ministry. It is not even the function of one who finally rises up and stands in full office as a prophet as we'll see in other teachings.

Two Functions of Prophetic Ministry

There are two very simple things involved in the Prophetic Ministry; or functioning as a prophet in prophetic ministry.

Firstly it involves hearing from God on behalf of somebody else. The second part involves speaking for God to other people.

So we are hearing from God for people. And we are speaking to people on behalf of God.

That is all prophetic ministry is. So in order to function in the Prophetic Ministry, all you need to learn to do is understand how to hear from God. And then you need to understand how to communicate what you have heard to other people.

If you can learn to do that right, you can begin to flow in prophetic ministry. And this is available to every single believer. Paul made it very clear in these passages that I shared at the beginning. He said,

I want you all to speak in tongues, but I would rather you all prophesied.

He says, "In a meeting if everybody speaks in tongues, it is not going to be much use because nobody is going to understand what you are saying. But if everybody prophesies it is a different matter."

What Paul is saying is,

"Every single believer can have an opportunity to function and operate in this prophetic ministry."

Learning to Hear from God

Let's look then at the first aspect of the Prophetic Ministry, which is hearing from God on behalf of others.

Now I want you to know that **all** believers can hear from God. It wasn't true in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament it is. It is because we all have the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

You will remember that this is what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. The Holy Spirit was given and He came to live inside all believers. So now we can all hear from God. We can hear Him speaking His voice deep inside of us.

This means it is very possible for every single one of us to hear from God. It means that the first function of hearing from God on behalf of others, or being one who flows in prophetic ministry, is possible and available to every single believer.

Problems With Listening

But here is the problem. We usually cannot trust our own hearts, because God doesn't speak out there with a booming voice. He speaks deep inside your own spirit.

You see God has made us to be a tripartite being. We have deep within us a spirit. Around the spirit we have a soul, and the outer part is the body. I have given plenty of teaching in much detail elsewhere on this so I am not going to go into detail.

But quite simply, when God speaks to you He speaks in your spirit. That then has to be communicated outwards into your soul which contains the mind, the emotions and the will.

So the real inner mind (the real personality) sits in your soul. It then gets communicated outwards into your body and into your brain.

So when God speaks to you He speaks in your spirit. He doesn't speak externally to your physical ears. He speaks to your spiritual ears, and you have to learn to listen from within. We will look at that more as I show you how to actually develop this listening ability.

Now your spirit is communicating outwards all the time. So when you hear,

because you are hearing your spirit all the time, when God finally puts something there and it comes out and you hear it, you wonder whether you are hearing right.

You wonder if this is really God or whether you are just making it all up. Perhaps your mind is playing tricks on you or you had too much to eat for lunch. Maybe you are just a bit overtired, or this is all your imagination.

You think, “Maybe I’ve been watching too many movies or reading too many books.”

Getting Confirmation

Those possibilities do exist. But the point is it is difficult at times for us to trust our own hearts and to hear from God.

For this reason we need confirmation from the outside. We need somebody to come to us and confirm that what we heard in our hearts actually was from God. So somebody from the outside may come to you and say,

“God told me to tell you this.”

Then if it lines up with what you already heard in your spirit, you will immediately say,

“Oh, so that **was** God speaking.”

When this happens you start learning to hear the voice of God for yourself, and you have the confidence to trust what God told you.

You see most of the time that is what the Prophetic Ministry does. Most of the time prophetic revelation is not somebody coming to tell you something you never ever thought about before.

Perhaps in your mind you have been thinking about going in a certain direction. You have been praying about it and you believe God wants you to do something. Now somebody comes from the outside and says,

“God says I must tell you to go that way.”

The trouble is it is totally opposite to anything you have ever thought of, prayed about or desired. If this happens to you I would be careful and I would say,

“Hang on, that doesn’t gel inside.”

So the Prophetic Ministry is usually a confirmation rather than a surprise.

People still have this idea that it is like going to a fortune teller, and he or she says,

“You are not going to marry that tall, dark and handsome guy. You are going to marry a short, fat blond guy.”

Then you say,

“Oh no!”

I know it may sound funny, but God does not work that way. What God has already spoken in your spirit, He will confirm to you.

What He may do is add a few things you never heard. He may add a bit more to clarify it for you. And yes He can certainly use the Prophetic Ministry for that.

So as you begin to hear from God on behalf of somebody else, you need to realize something. You must be very careful to hear from God, the same thing He probably already spoke to that person.

Unbiased Revelations

The problem is our own revelations are very biased aren’t they? This is because we hear what we want to hear.

And you know God will most of the time give us the things that we desire, unless they are totally against the Word in some way. So there is nothing wrong with hearing from God concerning your own desires.

But we have this bias within us. So it is good to have somebody from the outside who can look at it without that bias; to be able to hear the clear Word of God for us, and to be able to come and share it with us.

So probably the best person of all to receive a prophetic revelation from is a complete stranger who knows nothing about you and has never seen you before. They will say,

“I feel that the Lord wants me to share this with you. I’ve never seen you before and we don’t know each other. But this is what came to my mind. I don’t know what it means to you. It means nothing to me, but perhaps it will mean something to you, so I am going to share it with you. Here it is.”

Hiding Behind Prophetic Words

That is how prophetic ministry flows. Prophetic ministry is not me standing up, looking at all the people I know, and knowing what I would like to say to them but don’t have the courage to do it. So now I take upon myself the role of a prophet and say,

“Thus says the Lord, this is what God says..”

But you know very well that it isn’t what God says. It is what you want to say and don’t have the courage to say. And now you are trying to hide behind the Lord to do it. That is not prophetic ministry.

It is so much better actually when prophetic ministry can be received from or given to a complete stranger and there are no biases involved.

Chapter 04 – Speaking to Others on Behalf of God

In the last chapter we covered hearing from God for others. Now how do we speak to others on behalf of God?

Well the first obvious thing is you had better have heard, otherwise you have nothing to speak. We will show you how to do that. In fact I am going to give you some very simple things to do to practice and develop your abilities to do that. So don't worry about that just yet. You don't have to panic and say,

"I don't know how to do that yet."

It is okay; we will take you by the hand and show you step by step how to do it and you will get it right.

The Importance of Love

Here is the most important quality of all that you need before God can use you to speak His word to other people. You need to care about them. You need to care enough to make yourself available to God to be His instrument of blessing.

You are not to stand in judgment over people; to take it upon yourself to be the one to correct and to point out their mistakes. This is **not** the function of the Prophetic Ministry.

The function of the Prophetic Ministry is to flow out in love and encouragement; to speak God's word which is always positive. So until you can learn to have a bit of care, you are not going to function very well in this prophetic ministry.

You are also not going to be able to speak on behalf of God, because when the Lord speaks He always speaks in love. I am not saying that God can't speak a rebuke, but He will still do it in love.

No Outward Judgement

The next point is the less you know about people the better. That way you can hear more clearly from God. And as I said earlier, you will not be conditioned or prejudiced in any way.

Some flaky prophets out there think that they have the ability to look at people and judge them by their outward appearance. So a prophet will look amongst a group of people, and see a young lady with a lot of makeup and a very short mini skirt on.

He will decide that she is a bit of a slut and needs to be rebuked. So he will take it upon himself to speak a prophetic word of rebuke. You see he made an assessment and judged by what he saw.

Be very careful. Don't ever try and speak on behalf of God using your own judgement; by what you know about a person or about what you see and decide in your mind.

Often a Very Different Picture

You will find when you learn to flow correctly in prophetic ministry, that very often you will look at a person from a human point of view and think,

"Wow, if I was going to say something to that person I would have to give some corrections, because I can see they are out of order."

But you will find that very often when you speak God's words, He will say something totally different. Sometimes you may be shocked to hear the wonderful things that God says to this horrible person that you feel needs to get a good smack.

God starts to encourage them, lift them up and tell them how wonderful they are. He says how pleased He is with them and how greatly He is going to use them.

Sometimes you stand on the outside and think,

"Am I hearing right?"

Yes you are hearing right, because God will speak what He wants to speak, not what you want to speak.

Get to Know Jesus

You need to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus if you want to flow well in the Prophetic Ministry. You need to know Him as more than just your Savior.

You should have spent a bit of time in His presence and got to know a little about how He thinks; about how He works and what His nature is.

Then when you begin to speak on behalf of Him to other people, you will find it is going to color your whole approach. It will change the way you speak and the words that you use.

The last thing you need to do is learn how to hear well before you can speak, because you can only speak what you have heard. So you need to develop the ability to hear from God on behalf of other people. And you need to develop the ability to now communicate what you have heard to other people.

As you learn to do this you will find that you will finally begin to flow in prophetic ministry. That is all prophetic ministry is. In a nutshell it is learning to hear from God on behalf of others, and learning to speak to others what you have heard.

There is nothing complicated about it at all. You are quite capable of doing it. You were created with the ability to do it. All you need to do is to learn how to do it, but that is the hard part isn't it?

You say, "I would love to hear on behalf of other people, and I would love to be able to speak God's words to them. But how do I develop this ability to hear? And how do I develop the ability to communicate correctly the right words that God wants to speak?"

Well I am going to give you now some very good, practical principles to help you to learn how to do this.

Speech from the Spirit

To start off I want to very quickly explain something to you. When you speak words they always come up out of your spirit. You may think that words come just from the body. And yes they do when you physically speak them.

You may also think that they come from the soul where the mind is. Because you see you think of something and then you speak it. But in reality, speaking actually comes from a deeper source than your body or your soul.

It comes from within your spirit. And what comes from your spirit does flow outwards through your soul and through your body. But the source of all speaking and words, and the source of all hearing from God always comes from the spirit.

Confusing Input

The problem is that the mind doesn't only get what it receives from the spirit. It gets input from the outside from all the five senses while you are awake as well.

It also gets input from Satan and his hordes of demons who bombard your mind with thoughts. As that happens and your soul is filled with their thoughts, you may be confused as to what God is saying out of your spirit, the thoughts that are coming from all around you, and the thoughts that are coming from Satan.

Then you also have some of the thoughts that come up out of your memories of past events. There are so many different places that these things are coming from.

What we need then is some way of bringing this input under control. This means that when the spirit speaks, the soul actually submits to the spirit. The body then submits to the soul, and so there comes a flow from the spirit outwards through the soul and to the body.

Stopping the Confusion

We need to develop some kind of mechanism; whatever we can find, to try and make it easier to do this well. So when you begin to hear God's voice from your spirit, you don't get confused by all the other voices from the outside.

If you don't do this you do not know what other voices you are hearing. You are hearing some word from God, some from Satan, and some from the people round about you. You are also hearing some words from deep within your memory, of things that people spoke over you during your life.

There are so many words that come up into your mind that it is very difficult to tell the difference. And this is where people get confused and go astray. They get into deception and prophesy all the wrong things.

So I want to show you how to develop the ability to listen to your spirit, and to bring your soul and body into subjection. I will show you how to get that clean flow of God's revelation coming from deep within you. Then you will learn how to take that revelation and pour it out to other people.

Develop Your Speech

The first thing you need to do is learn to develop your speaking abilities. You see words control your mind.

Have you ever tried speaking and listening at the same time? You know what it is like. You are busy talking and one of your kids, or your spouse or someone tries to butt in and talk.

Well you can't listen to them while you are talking can you? You can't do it, because while you are talking you are actually flowing out words. While you are talking your mind is coming in subjection to your spirit.

Yes, while you are talking you are getting ideas in your mind and speaking them as they come. But the words that you use are not coming out of your mind, because you don't think through a word at a time in your mind. You just think through a thought, a picture or an idea, and you speak it with the words that come up out of your spirit.

One Way Communication

You cannot listen to two voices at the same time. You just can't do it.

You say, "Well I know people who can."

I'm sure you know what it is like. You are talking on the phone and somebody interrupts you. You are perhaps speaking to a business contact or something and your wife says,

"Don't forget to tell him that!"

The first thing you think is,

“Shut up woman, I’m busy talking. I can’t listen to you. The guy is talking on the phone.”

You can’t hear two voices at the same time. What you could do though is stop for a moment and say to the guy on the phone,

“Just hang on a moment.”

You turn to your wife and say,

“What are you saying?”

Then you can go back to your phone conversation.

You see you can only communicate; you can only talk or listen in one channel at a time. That means the safest way to hear and get a flow to come from your spirit is to use speech.

Creating a Bridge

While you are speaking you are in fact creating a bridge between your body and your spirit. Something is coming out and coming through the words.

Now that doesn’t mean that your mind is dead and blank. Your mind is very much alive and you are thinking thoughts while you are speaking.

For example if you watch a video of me teaching, you will see that I periodically look down at my notes and then carry on speaking. While I’m speaking I have a quick glance at my notes at what I am going to say next, and my mind is already gearing itself for what I am going to share next.

So my mind is quite active apart from while I am speaking. But my mind is just waiting its turn and flowing together with my speaking.

Have you ever found that while you are speaking to somebody you suddenly get new ideas? It is because while you are speaking you are actually tapping that inner resource.

Have I convinced you now that one of the best ways to hear is to speak? It doesn't make sense does it? But one of the best ways to hear from your spirit is through the faculty of speech.

Some Projects

So here is what I am going to give you to do to start with, that will teach you how to learn to hear from God. It will therefore prepare you to carry out the very first function of the Prophetic Ministry.

And it is very interesting that since the Prophetic Ministry also involves speaking, you are in fact going to 'kill two birds with one stone' as the expression goes. You are going to be learning to speak and learning to listen at the same time.

Now we can give you these as specific projects, and later on perhaps we will as we go through this course. But I am going to give you very quickly a few things that you can do and start practicing right now.

It will help you to develop this ability of speaking very clearly. And while you are speaking, you will learn to tap into your spirit and listen to what comes up out of it.

Reading Scripture Aloud

Firstly I want you to take passages of Scripture and read them out loud. Remember that while you are speaking you can't listen to another voice. So if Satan comes and tries to bombard your mind with thoughts, he can only do it when you stop and think.

While you are speaking you are ignoring that voice. It is just like you would ignore somebody interrupting you while you are in conversation.

So while you are speaking you can ignore those outer voices. But because that inner voice is coming up out of your spirit, which is the same place the words are coming from, you can start to listen.

Does it make sense? It is not too complicated is it?

So try taking some good passages of Scripture. Some of the best ones are probably the Psalms where David prayed those awesome prayers. Take your Bible and read that chapter, not in your mind but out loud.

You see if you read it in your mind then your mind can get side-tracked. But while you are reading it out loud your mind will not get side-tracked. And what will happen is you will in fact start to tap into that inner underground stream that is in your spirit.

Clearing the Junk

That is the easiest place to start. So lesson number 1 on learning how to flow in prophetic ministry, is to practice reading Scripture out loud. Try and do it daily if possible.

You will be amazed at what it does to you and how the Scriptures will suddenly begin to come to life. You may be feeling a bit depressed or down when you start. But by the time you are finished reading, something begins to happen.

Do you know why this is? It is because you are tapping into something very powerful deep inside of you and it begins to pour out all the junk that is in your mind.

It is an awesome way to clear the pipes. And now you are ready to listen for the good, clean stuff that God does want to speak and pour into you in prophetic ministry.

Recoup the Time

You know we can't always have our Bibles with us, although it is great having electronic Bibles these days. I have Bible software that I have produced myself and that I carry on my iPhone with me wherever I go.

This means that I can read Scripture any time I want to. Any time I have some time to kill or I am waiting for something, I can just pull out my phone, look up a random Scripture or read some Scripture. In fact if I am alone I can even do some reading out loud while I am waiting in a doctor's room or something.

Whatever the case, all of us at different times have to wait for something. If you

have a slow, old fashioned Windows computer then you probably have plenty of time to read the Bible while you wait for it to boot up. Some machines take about five or ten minutes before you can start using them. You can see I have moved over to Mac.

Anyway, be that as it may, we all have time to waste. So try and have the Word with you and recoup that time by reading Scripture out loud.

Memorizing Scripture

The trouble is you won't always have the Scriptures available to you like that. So here is another very good option, and it is to start memorizing a few good passages of Scripture.

Take some good, powerful verses from the Word and say them over and over again. Speak them out until they sink in and sit in your memory; until you can quote them without having to read them.

Then take time out and instead of reading a whole chapter or big passage of Scripture, just quote the Scriptures from memory. Speak them out loud over and over again and you will see a flow beginning to take place.

These are two things that you can start to do right away without having any special anointing. In fact you can do this if you haven't even received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and you have not even learned to speak in tongues yet.

Well if you have learned to speak in tongues, then that is the next best and most powerful tool that we can use to begin to hear from God. And because it is such a big subject I am not going to deal with it in this section.

We will cover that in the next one, and I will continue to show you what you can do to develop your prophetic ministry.

Section 03 – Tools to Develop Listening

Chapter 05 – Develop Listening Through Speech

In this Section I want to continue showing you how to develop your ability to listen, by first developing your speaking abilities.

I shared in the last Section, how you can read Scripture out loud as a way of encouraging the inner flow from your spirit. I showed how you can do it without getting interrupted by your thoughts or by any external attack from the enemy.

The Gift of Tongues

Now probably the most powerful tool that God has given us is the gift of tongues. Most people receive this when they receive the anointing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Not everybody immediately speaks in tongues after that. I was one of those who had to specifically seek God for it. But God showed me that every believer can speak in tongues.

So if you cannot yet speak or pray in tongues, this is the first goal that you must aim for. I am not going to try and teach you how to do that in this section. I am going to assume you already know how to speak in tongues.

I have taught elsewhere on how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit; how to enter into the gifts of the Spirit and to develop the gift of tongues. So here is the biggest and most powerful tool that God has given you to learn to tap into your spirit.

Unique Function

When you pray in tongues it has a very unique function which is even greater than normal speech. In normal speech, while you are talking your mind is flowing with your speech. So your thoughts are there, helping to steer your speech.

But when you are speaking an unknown tongue you do not understand what you are saying. You are like a person sitting on the outside. It is as though your mind is on the outside, listening to you speak this weird language that you yourself do not understand.

This means that speaking in tongues bypasses your soul and creates a bridge directly to your body. It means that whatever takes places in your soul cannot interfere with it.

So if there are any interferences from the outside; if Satan does try to attack your mind it does not matter. It doesn't affect you. There is like a hotline to Heaven as it were. There is a pipe that has been sunk down into the underground stream and the water is coming straight out into the air.

Practicing Tongues

One of the best ways therefore to develop your ability to hear and to speak as a prophet, is to speak in tongues for long periods of time.

I am going to be showing you shortly that praying is also a very important part. But whether you are praying in tongues or simply speaking in tongues, it is a very powerful tool to tap into your inner spirit.

You will find that as you spend long periods praying or speaking in tongues, you continue to get an inner flow from deep within. Then after a while you start to hear in the Spirit a lot more clearly. In fact the longer you pray in tongues, the clearer that hearing becomes.

In my own experience, when I first tried it I sat down and prayed in tongues for a solid hour. It nearly killed me, and I didn't feel anything or hear anything. But I broke through to a new level as I continued to do that.

Eventually I found that in order to get to the place where I heard God's voice and shut off the world and the voices round about me, I could just close my eyes. I could begin to pray in tongues for a short time and it would be there. It wouldn't be long and I could hear God speaking.

An Easy Way to Do It

You can develop this ability to hear from God, simply by taking time out every day to pray in tongues for long periods of time.

Now this is something that you don't have to set aside a special prayer time for. If you travel long distances to work or during your work, you have a perfect opportunity. You can pray in tongues while you are traveling in the car.

Yes if people pull up next to you they may think you are mad and you are talking to yourself. That is okay. I usually just pretend I am singing or I put my hand over my mouth so they can't see.

It doesn't really matter; you don't have to make a big issue out of it. But you can speak in tongues while you drive in the car or while you are doing anything. This is because your mind is free to do what it should be doing, but you continue to speak in tongues.

This is one of the most important tools that you have. It is one of the best things you can do to develop your prophetic ministry.

Using Prayer

And then you need to pray. Try praying out loud, not only in tongues but also in English. When I say pray out loud I am not saying you must pick up your little list and say,

"Lord I want to pray for auntie and uncle, granny and grandpa and the guy at work."

No, that is shopping list prayer. That is not what I am talking about. You see when you do that you are praying from your mind, not from your spirit.

So the next time you get down to pray, this is what you must do. Instead of coming with all your requests, all your needs and all the things you think need to be prayed about, come with a blank mind. Come with nothing and say,

"Lord, I'm just coming to talk to you."

But what are you going to talk about? I don't know. You see if you are an expressive this one is very easy. You can open your mouth and say anything and it is amazing what comes out. But even if you are not expressive, you will be

surprised that everybody can do this.

Practical Prayer

So practice this in your prayer time. Sit down and close your eyes. Or if you want you can just walk around with your eyes open or whatever you find easy. Then just begin to pray the first thing that comes into your mind.

Well what if nothing comes to your mind? Then you can just start by saying,

“Lord I want to thank you for (whatever).”

You can find something to thank Him for. Just start talking, and as you do it say the first thing that comes to your mind. Express how you are feeling, whether it be positive or negative. Pray an honest prayer and tell the Lord how you feel.

Imagine that you are holding a conversation with Him, and just begin to talk and pray. Then perhaps while you are doing that, somebody may come to your mind. You might say,

“Lord I would like to pray for that person. I remember that he had a bit of a problem. Actually I haven’t thought about him for a long time, but somehow he has come to my mind now.

“Lord I don’t know what his need is right now. But I ask you to stretch forth your hand and bless him. And whatever his need is, I am asking you to meet it.”

Starting to Prophesy

You see you begin to pray out loud. What is happening is you are in fact being led from deep within your spirit, and God is teaching you what to pray.

Do you know what you are doing? You are actually starting to prophesy. What you are starting to do is you are taking what God wants to say and you are speaking it out loud into the earth.

God inspired you to pray for something that He wants to do. And what you have done without even realizing it, is you have started to prophesy.

You say, “I didn’t know I was prophesying. I was just praying.”

Well every time you pray spontaneously unplanned prayers that come up out of your spirit, you are actually speaking for God are you not?

This is because the Scripture says that God does nothing except through the agency of man. If God is to work in this earth, He requires us to set that plan in motion. So when you are praying God’s words, you are speaking His words into the earth and setting things in motion.

So here are your simple tools for learning how to prophesy. Learn to speak in tongues, learn to pray in tongues, and then learn to start praying out loud in English.

The Power of Music

Then you can add one last thing that really adds an extra power, and that is music.

Music is a very powerful force, because what it does is it actually links spirit, soul and body together and causes a kind of vibration to take place. It means that all three parts are kind of vibrating at the same frequency.

When you sing music there comes a flow, because you are singing the words and adding the music. Your body begins to react and you begin to tap your feet in time to the music or clap your hands. Perhaps you may feel like dancing.

All of these things begin to flow together, and your spirit, soul and body come into total harmony as you begin to add music to your prayer.

So instead of just praying or speaking in tongues, why not try singing in tongues?

You say, “How do I sing in tongues? I don’t know what I am saying? I’m not singing a song.”

Well do you know how to use notes in music? You can sing any notes and just use tongues as you sing it. You can make it up as you go. Make up the tune and just use the words that come up out of your spirit while you are singing in

tongues.

It may not be marvelous music and it may sound very disjointed, but what is happening is you are creating an inner flow. The music picks that up and causes the flow to increase.

It starts to feel good and exciting, and before you know it you will feel a bubbling taking place inside of you. Then the air will begin to clear and you will start to hear that inner voice a lot more clearly.

You see speaking is one of the most powerful abilities for developing prophetic ministry. This is because prophetic ministry ultimately is speaking God’s word to others.

Chapter 06 – Learning to Focus

How do you develop your ability to listen? Now that you have learned to get the flow going and the stuff is coming up from the inside, there are a lot of voices coming at you.

You have the voices from the outside and from the inside. You have the voice of your own mind and your own thoughts, from the TV program you watched last night or the book you read. You also have all the things that were pushed down into your memory.

How do you practice focusing on the right voice? How do you learn to listen correctly?

Listening in a Group

Here is the best place to practice. You need to practice listening in a group of people. Find yourself a situation. Go into any place where there are a lot of people milling around and they are all talking.

You may have that at work. You might have that in any public place like in a shop. Whatever you choose, go to any place where there are people all milling around together and talking. If you just listen, at first all you will hear are voices coming from everywhere.

What do we normally tend to do when that happens? We normally shut out the voices. People are talking but we are not listening are we? We are hearing them, but we are not listening to them.

Shutting the Voices Out

Now I have found this to be true. Living in a foreign country like Mexico where everybody speaks a language that I don’t fully understand, I have developed this habit of just switching off.

So when I hear people all around me speaking in Spanish, instead of trying to

listen and understand what they are saying, I just shut it out. This is a very bad practice which has made it difficult for me to begin to learn the language properly.

The same thing happens in the Spirit. God is speaking in your spirit all the time – 24 hours a day. But because we have so many different voices speaking to us all the time, we tend to just shut them off. We hear the voice but we are not listening to it.

Learning to Focus

So to get yourself into the habit of focusing in on one voice at a time I suggest you try this. Get into a group and stop. Just look around you to see all the people that are talking and choose one person to listen to.

Get close to the person and see if you can hear them and understand what they are saying. When you do that, what is going to happen is all the other voices that are talking will all get shut out. You will then only be listening to that one person speaking at a time.

Now you can develop this a bit further. As you stand there in the group, close your eyes and now listen without seeing the people that are speaking. Listen and see if you can identify each different voice that is talking.

There may be male voices or female voices. There may be people speaking in a high pitch or a low pitch. They may be speaking in different ways with different accents. Each of them has a different sound.

Can you distinguish them? Can you close your eyes and listen and say,

“There is a guy speaking there and he must have false teeth or something because he is muttering all the time.”

Can you pick that up? Then maybe you will say,

“There is a little girl out there. And that is definitely a little boy speaking there and he is saying, ‘Mommy.’ ”

Can you identify the voices? You see you need to practice listening to voices in the real world. Then you can identify and choose when to listen to a voice and

when to shut it out.

If you will learn to do that, when you come into the realm of the Spirit and now start listening to God, you will eventually begin to recognize and identify that still small voice that speaks inside of you. That small voice is the Holy Spirit speaking in your spirit.

You will be able to say,

“Okay, I’m not going to listen to these other voices. I am going to listen to that one, because I know that is the voice of the Lord.”

Speaking Through the Senses

How does God speak? He will not likely speak to you audibly. God actually speaks to you most of the time in pictures, but you can still hear in your mind. You can also taste, smell and feel in your mind, because your mind stores all of the senses.

Hearing is only one of the senses. But all of the senses can communicate something to you.

You see perhaps I begin to smell the smell of one of my favorite foods; a nicely grilled steak. Now I have a very loud message coming across that says,

“Steak is cooking in the kitchen right now.”

Nobody needed to say to me,

“We’re having steak tonight for supper.”

My nose told me that. I ‘heard’ the voice of my nose. So you must learn to discern, identify and listen to the impulses that come up from within.

Very often they will come through your mind. So close your eyes and maybe even your ears, so that you can shut out all the noise round about you and start picking up the things that come from deep inside.

What pictures begin to come into your mind as you stand there with your eyes closed? In your mind can you hear voices or words? Can you smell something?

Do you get a taste in your mouth or feel something? All of these are ways of hearing from your spirit within.

Now if you don't practice them in the natural, when you start to move into the spiritual you are going to apply the exact same principles. And if you have not learned to ignore all the voices around, you are going to find it extremely difficult to listen to and hear the true voice of God.

Or perhaps you have learned to only listen to the loudest voice that speaks to you. If that is the case, then you are going to hear Satan first because he has the loudest voice.

Getting Ideas While You Talk

So you need to learn to develop your ability to listen. And then you need to learn to listen while talking.

You see while you are talking, thoughts come to your mind. Where are they coming from? Can you identify it?

Are they coming from deep inside you? Are they coming from your memory, or from something you read or saw? Or are they things you never thought of before?

Try and identify all of the pictures that you see. Are they familiar to you? Are they perhaps things that you have seen before? Are they things that you have been thinking about that were in your mind? Or did they come up spontaneously out of nowhere?

When you close your eyes and you see a picture, you may see something that you have seen before. Or maybe it is like something you have seen in the past, but what you are seeing right now is a little bit different. You cannot say,

"I'm looking at that picture that I have on my wall."

But in your mind you may see a picture on a wall that you have never seen before. So yes you have seen pictures on walls, but you are looking at this picture and there it is in your mind.

Where is it coming from? The chances are it is coming up from your spirit

within.

So try and identify everything; all the ideas that come up into your mind while you are talking. Because you see while you are talking, if God is going to give you revelation, the chances are that is how it is going to happen.

While you are talking you will start to see pictures. Thoughts and ideas will come into your mind. And if you are talking and flowing and God's Spirit is flowing out of you, the chances are He is going to give you extra things in your mind that you know what to speak about.

Similar to Prophesy

This is how prophesy takes place. Because when God gives you a prophetic word to speak to somebody, He doesn't always give it to you full blown. He doesn't say to you,

"Go to this person now and tell them this."

You have to listen to the whole thing and say,

"Okay, point 1, point 2, 3 and 4."

You have to memorize it or write it down. Then you go to the person and say,

"As I was praying last night, God told me all of these things about you, and He told me to come and tell it to you."

Most of the time prophesy doesn't work that way. Most of the time what in fact will happen is you are going to be with somebody and you are going to be sharing or praying with them.

Maybe they asked you for prayer. So you pray with them, having learned to pray in the Spirit. And as you begin to pray what God tells you to pray, suddenly He says,

"Okay here is something extra I want you to add."

While you are praying for them, you say something and God says,

“Yes, that is correct. What you said is actually what I wanted to say. Tell it to the person. Tell them that this is what I have for them and confirm it to them.”

That is how you begin to prophesy over people. It comes naturally and spontaneously. So you must learn to listen on the run. You must learn to listen while you are speaking.

Developing Through Writing

Now how can you develop this all by yourself, because there is not always somebody to speak to is there? You may live in a foreign land like we do, where there are not too many people around us who we can speak to. The only ones we have to speak to live are each other.

So how can you develop speaking and listening at the same time? You can talk through writing and you can also listen through writing.

Start by writing down all of your thoughts and your ideas on paper. These days it is much easier to do electronically on a device using a word processing document.

Write down all the impressions that come to your mind and all the pictures that you see. Describe what you see in words in writing.

Write down what those pictures mean to you. What you are learning to do is to talk and listen at the same time.

Now I have given you a lot of information. But actually you can boil it down to some very simple things. Start practicing speaking, and then practice listening to what comes up while you are speaking.

If you can do that on a regular basis, before you know it you will find yourself starting to flow in prophetic ministry. Once that happens, you are now ready for God to begin to use you to flow out in that ministry to others, and to start to become a blessing to them.

Ready for Action

The next question you are probably going to ask now is this.

“That’s fine; I’ve been practicing this all by myself. I have been practicing praying in tongues, praying out loud, speaking and writing and doing all of these things. I am starting to get a flow and am starting to get it together.

“If I just have an opportunity now to share with people, I think I can begin to flow in some prophetic ministry. I think I can start to hear from God for people, and begin to share with them what I believe God is saying.”

Where do you start functioning? I am not going to cover that now, but we will look at that in the next section.

We are going to look at how you can start practicing your prophetic ministry in a safe zone. Then you can gradually move it outwards until God begins to use you to minister in the Body of Christ. And finally you will begin to carry out the whole prophetic function as a ministry in the Body of Christ.

Section 04 – Practicing Prophecy: Learning to Hear

Chapter 07 – Understanding How God Speaks

In the last section I ended by saying that we are going to look this time at where you actually begin. If you are going to operate in a prophetic ministry, where do you start once you have learned to hear from God? Where do you begin practicing being a prophet?

So I want to share about that some more here. I am going to teach you how and where you can start practicing before you learn to flow more effectively in a prophetic ministry.

Be Your Own Guinea Pig

The best place to start practicing your prophetic ministry is the safest place of all - which is on yourself. So you start by doing this first.

Now this thought may immediately come to your mind as it did to me when I first began to do it. I thought to myself,

“The Scripture says that the gifts are given to us to minister to other people. We are not supposed to be using these things for ourselves are we?

“The ministry of prophesy, as with any ministry, means that God gives us something that we can use to help other people. So how can I prophesy over myself, because that means I am not ministering to other people?”

I struggled with this one at the beginning, but I want you to realize that you are also a ‘people’. And yes, in time God will send other people to give you a prophetic word. But every single believer can hear from God for themself.

You see it is different to the way it was under the Old Testament. In the Old Testament God would select a specific person as a prophet, and He would use them to give a message to the people.

We are operating in the new End Times Church; the one that has come into being

ever since Jesus died and rose again. And in this church every believer has the ability to hear from God.

That is why in this teaching I am trying to show you that actually every believer can prophesy. If that is the case, you should be able to hear from God not only on behalf of other people, but for yourself as well.

Nobody Gets Hurt

Now the beauty of practicing and starting your prophetic ministry on yourself is that firstly nobody else is affected by it. It means you can make mistakes and nobody will get hurt.

You can also make mistakes without feeling that you opened your mouth and put your foot in it. Then you start feeling all embarrassed and say,

“I’m never going to do that again because I made a total mess up! People got upset with me because I was totally wrong in what I shared with them.”

You see it is only you that is affected. And if you prophesy over yourself and get it wrong, the only person that is affected is you. You can then deal with it and get over it quite easily.

Most of us are very forgiving of ourselves aren’t we? We just don’t forgive other people so easily. This means that you can learn through failure. In fact nobody learns without failing. But at least when you fail it only affects you and not other people.

If you plan to move in prophetic ministry, I suggest you learn to practice on yourself first and have a few failures before you start having a few successes. And don’t even think about ministering to others until you can do it right.

You see by working on yourself you can develop your ability to flow in prophetic ministry. Then you will be more capable and qualified to minister to others.

Starting the Process

So how do you practice prophesying by yourself? Perhaps it seems a bit stupid to

you. When you speak a word of prophesy it is God speaking to people, but how can you speak to yourself?

Well you do it by talking to yourself. You were likely afraid that I was going to say that to you. But there is no other way that you can prophesy over yourself except by talking to yourself. So let me show you how to do this without you feeling that you are experiencing the first sign of madness.

I will show you that it is in fact quite normal and that there is nothing to worry about when you do this. You are not going mad and you are not getting into deception. Yes deception can happen but we will deal with it later.

Hearing the Rhema Word

The first and safest way of learning to prophesy over yourself is to learn to hear the Word of God for yourself. Now I want you to understand that the Word can come in different ways.

We have taught on this in so many different places. And if you have studied a bit of Greek you will know that there are several different words for 'Word'. The two main words that are used in Scripture are the *logos* or the *rhema* word.

What is the difference between the two? Logos is usually a word that has already been spoken and recorded, like something that has been written down or captured onto a video or audio recording. A rhema word is a word that is being spoken spontaneously in the moment.

Now a prophetic word is always (or should always) be a rhema word. If you are really hearing the Word of God for a current situation or person, then it means God is speaking that word to you right now.

A logos word is not a prophetic word, but I am going to start by showing you how to use the Word. A lot of people kind of use the Bible as a fortune telling book. They just regurgitate Scripture and call that prophecy.

That is not prophecy, but you can certainly add Scripture to prophecy. Prophecy is when God gives you something to tell a person and you can include Scripture with it. In fact if you don't know Scripture, usually you won't understand what God is saying to you.

Your Own Words

You see when God gives you a prophetic word He very seldom gives you actual words. He gives you an idea, a concept or a picture.

That is how a prophetic word starts. The actual words that you use when you communicate that message from the Lord are your words, not God's words.

Some people like to get very spiritual about this. We will consider it later on as we look at how you should speak prophecy. They have the idea that these are the very words of God - word for word.

People sometimes take the prophetic words that are spoken over them. Then they try and break them down and analyse them to find out exactly what God was saying.

Well God didn't speak those words; a human being spoke them. A human being used their vocabulary, their understanding, their language and their knowledge of the Word.

Understanding the Message

You have to look at the whole message that is given. So what you must learn to do is to understand how God thinks. I want you to let that sink in. If I am to receive communication from a person, I need to understand how that person thinks.

If you are a man you should know by now that women think very differently to men. Sometimes women will say something that other women understand perfectly well.

I mean every woman in the room knew what she was saying, but us guys got it all wrong, because we don't think like a woman. We totally misunderstood and misinterpreted what she was trying to say.

It is a different thing if you get to know that woman very well, like she is your wife, and you begin to understand how she thinks. Now when she says something you know what she means.

Understanding God

So if you are going to hear the voice of God correctly, you need to understand how He thinks. You need to understand where He is coming from and how He expresses Himself. The best way to learn that is to get into a book that He has given us with 66 different sections in it. It is called the Bible.

There you will find out how God communicates and what He thinks, even though He spoke it through 66 different books. There were many different people who were the authors of the Scriptures, but God spoke through all of them.

If you study the Scriptures you will eventually begin to get an idea of how God thinks. Then when somebody gives a prophetic word, you can immediately judge that word by saying,

“Okay, that lines up with the way God thinks. It lines up with the way He normally speaks.”

Or you could say,

“I have never heard God speak that way before. This just doesn’t sound right. It doesn’t sound like the God I know.”

Until you get to know God through His Word, you are going to have difficulty flowing correctly in this ministry of prophecy.

Ways of Getting into the Word

Start then by getting into the Word on a daily basis and let God speak to you from His Word. As you read the Word certain things will jump out at you and you will get person revelations from it. Write them down and record them. Remember them, because after a while you will begin to understand how God reveals things.

Do a devotional Bible study. In other words don’t sit down and analyse the Scriptures, go into the Greek and everything and try and find out exactly what the original writer was saying. No, rather ask yourself,

“What is God saying to me through the Scriptures right now? How can I take this word and apply it to my current circumstances right now?”

Meant to Help, Not Condemn

That is how you do a devotional study. When you do that you find out how God uses words to help us in our needs. Then you will learn that when you start to speak a prophetic word, that God you that word for the same reason; so that you can help somebody.

He doesn’t give it to you so that you can say,

“Well God has shown me all your secrets. Now I’m going to bring them out into the open. I’m going to rebuke you publicly, and put you on the spot and make you repent!”

That is not the Prophetic Ministry. It is actually not any ministry. The Prophetic Ministry means servanthood and helping people. It doesn’t mean condemning them.

Manna Scriptures

Now the Scriptures will stand out to you in different ways. At times God will give you a Scripture that applies to your situation right now.

That Scripture may have been written thousands of years ago. It may have been written to people in a different culture and time. But as you read that little passage from the Word, it jumps right out at you.

It is as though God is speaking to you straight out of the Bible. He is speaking to a circumstance like a situation or a problem that you have at the present time.

I like to call those manna Scriptures. You see the children of Israel used to get a bit of manna every day. It was just enough to feed them for the day and meet their needs.

They couldn’t keep the manna over until the next day though. They could only use it for today and then it was gone.

Manna Scriptures are like that. You may read a Scripture today and it jumps at you and ministers to a need you have right now. Then tomorrow or next week you read the same Scripture, and you can't understand why it excited you last time.

It doesn't mean anything to you now. It is because your circumstances have changed. You see it is old manna. You must learn to let the Word be manna to you; to feed you and speak to you like that.

A Word in Season

When you read devotionally like that, just let God speak to you out of His Word. You will soon start to learn how prophetic words need to be given. They are given for a specific point in time, for a specific person or situation.

So when God gives you a prophetic word for somebody, the chances are that person has been waiting for a word from God right now. They have a problem or a situation. They may be confused about something or need direction. Whatever it may be, God has a word for the moment, and that prophetic word must be God's rhema word.

You see when the logos word jumps out at you like that it gets converted to rhema. In that instant it becomes God saying to you directly out of His Word,

"This is what I want you to do. This is what I am telling you right now. Let me encourage you and uphold you. Let me help you get rid of your fear."

Whatever it is, God will minister to your need.

That then is one of the best ways to start learning on your own to let God speak His prophetic words to you straight out of the Scriptures.

Chapter 08 - Praying Prophetically

The next way you can begin to practice prophesying personally is to learn to pray prophetically. You might ask,

“What is prophetic prayer?”

I am going to be covering that in quite a lot of detail a subject all on its own, so I am just going to mention it briefly here.

A simple way of describing prophetic prayer is this. You do not come to God to ask for the things that **you** think you or other people need. You don’t pray about what you think God should do in the world. Instead you come and ask God what **He** wants to do. It is a case of you saying,

“Lord, what should I pray?”

Instead of coming to give God your shopping list and instructions and treating Him like a servant, you come to Him and say,

“Lord I don’t know what you have planned, but I want to be a partner with you in this. So I want to start praying for what you want to do.”

You say, “Well if God wants to do something, why doesn’t He just do it?”

It is because God has chosen to do it through us human beings. And praying prophetically simply means praying what God tells you to pray.

Of course this is a big subject and we have covered it in a lot of detail. My wife Daphne has also done a lot of teaching on prayer.

Come With a Clean Slate

So how do you move from your normal prayer, where you are praying for needs or things that are on your mind, and move to prophetic prayer?

Well the first thing you do is come to prayer without an agenda. You don’t have

a clue what you are going to pray. You might say to someone,

“Let’s have a prayer meeting.”

“What are we going to pray about?”

“I haven’t got a clue.”

Sometimes people pray just so that can be heard. They like to pray to impress everyone else with what wonderful knowledge they have and how eloquent they can be in their prayer.

Prophetic praying means coming to the Lord without an agenda. You are doing this all by yourself so there is nobody to impress. Nobody is going to hear you except perhaps the dog or anything else close by. You have no agenda and nobody to impress.

Just Make a Start

You say to Him,

“Okay I am coming to pray, but what do I pray about? I’m not sure what to pray.”

Well start by praying the first thing that comes into your mind. You might say,

“Man I am feeling hungry right now. Oh Lord, I thank you for steak.”

That may be a little basic, but just pray what comes to your mind. And after you have worked your way through the steak and the dessert and whatever else is on your mind, you may suddenly find something popping into your mind that you hadn’t thought about.

Flowing With the Lord

Maybe a person comes to mind that you haven’t seen in years. Maybe you haven’t thought about that person or had contact with them for a while.

It may be someone who is close to you, and suddenly that person’s face begins to loom in your mind. You need to let God put impressions on you as you pray and

then start to pray for that person.

Well what do you pray for them? You might think to yourself,

“The Lord showed me this person, and as far as I can see they don’t have any problems. They are financially well off and seem to be in fairly good health. In fact their life seems to be going a whole lot better than mine right now.

“Quite honestly I would rather pray for the Lord to provide my needs right now, because they seem to be doing okay.”

You don’t know that though. God has brought that person to your mind, so you start and say,

“Lord I don’t know what their need is here, but I ask you to show me what to pray for this person.”

You might find that when you open your mouth to pray you find yourself praying things you never thought of. You find words coming out of your mouth that you did not expect like,

“Lord, I want to pray for this person. You know the care that they have in their heart, Lord. You know the fear that is deep inside. You know the deep desire that she hasn’t expressed to anybody.”

“Lord, you know the anguish and conflict that he is going through right now. I just ask you to touch him now.”

Before you know it you think,

“I didn’t know that was happening.”

Of course you didn’t because God revealed it to you as you were praying. You started to pray prophetically.

You say, “What happens if nothing comes?”

Well then just start by praising the Lord and thanking Him. Come into His presence and say,

“Lord I want to thank you for your love and your care.”

Starting to Prophesy

Just praise Him and get yourself into His presence. Then if you have been studying the Word, why don’t you take a passage of Scripture that jumped out at you and pray it? You can say,

“Lord as I read the Word today this Scripture jumped out, and I believe that this is what you were saying to me. Lord I believe that you were telling me that, and so according to what I saw in the Word and what you showed, I believe that you would have me to pray this.”

As you do this suddenly something will explode inside you and you will feel the anointing. You may think,

“What is happening here? I hit something there.”

As you speak you begin to sense a surge coming within. Do you know what happened? You began to prophesy. You began to flow in prophetic anointing without even realizing what you were doing.

Begin to Move

All that you did is you began to speak. You see prophecy is very much like an illustration I often use. You know that if you put a boat on the water and you move its rudder nothing happens.

But the moment you begin to push that boat and let it start moving, as soon as you turn the rudder the boat changes direction.

Well if you want to move in prophecy it means speaking. So until you start speaking, it doesn’t matter what the Lord does with that rudder, you are going nowhere.

So get into the flow, and as you do so suddenly there will come a change in direction. Suddenly you will find yourself going in a new direction. You will find yourself saying words that you didn’t plan to say.

What is happening is you are beginning to flow in prophetic ministry. You are doing it all by yourself, and the only thing you have to confirm it to you is that sense of,

“Hey I didn’t plan to say that, but it sounded pretty good. And actually it felt pretty good when I said it. I even began to feel the presence of the Lord and I found myself saying more and more. I started speaking words without even thinking. It was just pouring out of me.”

When you do that you are beginning to prophesy.

Speaking Through the Senses

How do we get specific revelation from the Lord? How does God speak to us?

Well the first thing is He doesn’t speak to us the way other human beings speak to us. He doesn’t appear in front of us and say,

“My child, this is what I want to say to you right now.”

You won’t hear God speaking words out loud. In fact it takes a while before you can hear Him speaking words at all. In the beginning, the way God speaks to us is in the same way we receive information from the world round about us.

He speaks through our five senses – seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching. This is how we receive information all around us.

When somebody speaks words to us we are only just using the sense of hearing. So when God begins to speak to you, what is the most powerful sense of all? Which one of the five senses seems to dominate all of the others?

There is a little saying that goes like this:

A picture is worth a thousand words.

In other words, instead of God speaking a thousand words to you, He just gives you a picture into your mind. And when He has given you that picture, He has given you a message.

So you start by learning to identify pictures. Then you can identify things that

you can hear, or things that you smell, taste or feel. He can use all the senses.

These impressions will come up from inside of you. This is because they were fed down from the outside and they start to come up out of you.

Receiving Through Dreams

We will look at that in more detail later and see exactly how these things come up and how we can use them. But one of the more powerful ways in which every one of us receive impressions from deep within is something that we all do all the time. I am talking about dreaming.

I know some people say that they never dream, but that is not true. Everybody dreams; just some people don't remember their dreams when they wake up.

But every single person at one stage or another has woken up from a dream. They have known that they were dreaming and remembered their dream.

Now God can speak to you through dreams. I am not going to cover this in detail now because I am going to cover it in detail on its own, so that you can learn to interpret your dreams. For now I am just going to give you a simple summary, and a way for you to start to hear from God through dreams.

Dreams are Personal

Most of the time dreams are about you. And most of the impressions that you get coming up from inside of you while you are dreaming are actually for you.

If God does begin to speak to you through dreams, it is highly likely that 99.9 percent of the time, He is in fact speaking to you about **you**, not about somebody else.

People have the idea that because they had a dream of say a particular aunt, that the dream was about her. But it was not; the dream was about you.

So if you want to learn to start hearing God's words to you, start to identify the impressions that come up out of your spirit while you are asleep in your dreams; those that are prophetic in orientation.

I want to just give you some simple things that you can start to do to prepare yourself for this.

Identifying Symbols

Firstly you must learn to identify symbols in your dreams. You see every single thing in your dream is a symbol. So to start to understand your dreams and try and get things out of them, find out when God starts to speak to you prophetically through your dreams.

Your dreams most of the time will not be prophetic. But if you want to start practicing it and developing it, the first thing you should begin to do is to record your dreams.

The moment you wake up, while it is still fresh in your mind, write down a quick summary of what that dream was about. You may not even have time to interpret it, but write it down.

After a while you may find that a lot of your dreams flow along a similar direction. You might start to see that there is a theme coming out in them.

What to Look for

You need to look for these things in your dream.

Firstly, look for people and write down who those people are. Look for the places that you were in and make a note of those places.

Next, look for objects and things in your dream and write them down. Do the same thing for colors.

And then you need to make a note of what you felt; your feelings and emotions. Were they positive or negative? Were you happy or sad? What kind of emotions did you experience during that dream?

Interpreting Symbols

If you write those things down, you will find that you will begin to see some kind of pattern developing. Then what you must do next to interpret your dream

is to see what each of these things mean to you.

If you dream about your husband or wife, what is your relationship with them right now? If you dream about your father or your mother, what does he or she mean to you?

Perhaps you dreamed about your older sister. What does she mean to you? Or if you dreamed about your younger brother, what does he mean to you? You may have dreamed about your boss at work. What does he mean to you?

You see all of these things are symbols. And until you learn to interpret your dreams symbolically, you are not going to get the message.

This is very important, because when God speaks prophetically, He will often speak to you in symbols. And often when God gives you a picture, that picture is not the specific thing that you are looking at. It is rather a symbol of something else.

If you are to know how to use that revelation by speaking a word of prophecy, then you had better know how to interpret that symbol. So the best place to start to interpret symbols is in dreams.

Receiving Visions

Once you have the feel of interpreting symbols in dreams, you will find that you will be in a better position later on when God begins to give you visions.

We will look at that next. I will show you how you can take what you are sensing in your spirit and begin to share it forth as a prophetic word to somebody else.

You see visions come while you are awake, whereas dreams come while you are asleep. But both of them are very similar. They are pictures that come into your mind that have a symbolic meaning.

How Visions Come

If you are to experience visions while you are awake, then look for pictures that come to your mind unexpectedly. They will be things you weren't thinking of;

things that just pop into your mind.

They come as impressions and ideas. You are sitting there minding your own business. You are idling along and letting your mind just do its thing, and suddenly an idea pops into your mind.

You hadn't thought of it before. Or maybe you had thought of it and just put it into the back of your mind. Now suddenly it pops out and you think,

"Oh, I know what I should do. I should do that."

What is happening is you are starting to get impressions coming up out of your spirit. Start to be sensitive to these things and learn to act on those impressions.

You see as you learn to practice this, in time when God begins to suddenly put impressions like that in your spirit, they are going to come up prophetically. Then you will recognize them straight away and say,

"Okay that is prophetic revelation. I know that God is speaking to me. I know that He wants me to do something with this."

A lot of these things will come up even while you are awake. It is the same thing with things that you see, or things that hear, taste, touch or smell. You will receive sensory input.

Dream Away

Then you should practice daydreaming. Perhaps you think,

"Some people are always just in the clouds."

That is a good place to be if you are learning prophetic ministry. And you will find that most people that have a prophetic orientation have been accused during their life of being in the clouds.

When I was younger my dad would often say to me,

"Why don't you just come out of the clouds and come and join us? Just come down to where we are, please."

You see I lived in a fantasy world, and there is nothing wrong with living in that world. This is how you develop an orientation of receiving things symbolically in the Spirit. As you receive these try them out and test them.

Ask yourself, “Is God speaking to me? What is He saying to me?”

Take them, pray them through, and eventually begin to convert them into prophesy. How do we do that? I am going to deal with that in the next teaching.

Section 05 – Practising Prophecy: Learning to Speak

Chapter 09 – Speaking in Writing

You have begun to practice getting revelation, receiving impressions and identifying them. Now you need to start converting what you heard into what you say.

Again you are practicing prophesy and you are doing it on yourself. This means that there is nobody else in the room but you. It also means you are going to have to start talking to somebody. And most of us have a problem talking to ourselves because it feels weird.

But I am going to show you how to start learning to talk to yourself. I will show you how to do it bit by bit until you get more comfortable with it and understand exactly how it works.

Start by Writing

What is the best way to talk to yourself? Here is an easy way. If you have a computer with a word processing or text edit program, you can begin to write.

The wonderful thing about writing is when you talk to yourself in writing, nobody hears it. You don't have to worry that while you were talking to yourself somebody had their ear to the door and said,

"I heard you talking to yourself and you sounded stupid."

You are all by yourself with the writing method that you are using. You just begin to write down what is in your mind, and as you do so you begin to record some of the things that have started to come out.

I already told you that you must start this with your dreams. I told you to write your dreams down, and to make a note of all the objects and what you think they mean. It is a good place to start. You are starting to communicate outwards some of the things that you have heard.

Keep a Diary

What exactly should you write down? One of the first thing you can write on a daily basis is a kind of diary of events.

Get into the habit of creating your own personal diary. Because you see when you create a diary, it allows you to begin to speak out in words some of what has been happening inside of you.

One of the best ways to do this is to start recording what happened in your day. This is very important if you have had some momentous events that took place.

Also try and keep to your spiritual life. Record some of the things that happened during the day that had some kind of spiritual effect on you; that was related to your ministry, your relationship with the Lord and other people.

You can write something like this.

Today I had a rip-roaring fight with my brother. He said something that really irritated me and I got angry. I shouted at him and he shouted back at me. And before we knew it we had one terrible fight and it went on for an hour.

Write it down. You may find that as you are doing this you start to think,

“Hang on, I know what caused it. It was him; he **always** causes the fights. He is just one of those people that you can’t speak to rationally. They are always flying off about something. They take everything you say the wrong way.”

Well if that is the way you feel it is good. Write it down, but you may find that right in the middle of it a little voice speaks up inside of you and says,

“No it wasn’t him; it was you. You know you shouldn’t have done that.”

You see you are starting to flow outwards in writing. And you will be amazed that often as you write down some of the things that happened is that you feel God within beginning to make it clearer to you. Then you say,

“I’m beginning to understand what God is trying to show me through what happened. I need to know how to handle this correctly in future.”

So start by just writing down what has happened. You don't need to sit down and think,

"What can I write? I don't have any ideas and there is nothing in my mind. I'm thinking about supper and then sleep; I am tired."

Sometimes it is hard to sit down and think of something to write. So start to get the flow. Get the boat in the water.

Just start writing your diary of some of the events that took place during the day. As you are doing it these new things will start to pop out. You will suddenly find your rudder being manipulated, and you will take a new direction in your writing that you didn't expect.

You see that is how prophecy works. In prophecy, God begins to steer you as you begin to speak.

Only Getting a Small Piece

As we cover the subject of speaking prophecy more in detail later on, you will find that God will not tell you everything you are going to speak. He will not give you a full revelation of the prophetic word that you are going to give.

Sometimes He will just give you a little piece. He will give you an idea. He will say,

"I want you to go to this person and I want you to tell them this."

He won't give you the details. You may say to Him,

"Lord, please tell me exactly what I should say to them."

He will say to you,

"As soon as you get there I will tell you the words to say."

So you have to get into the habit of starting to say something and not knowing what is coming next.

Now if you do this live and you open your mouth and nothing comes out you

begin to feel a bit embarrassed. You start to wonder if you missed it, and people start looking at you strange and saying,

“So you said you had a prophetic word for me?”

“Um.. Thus says the Lord. Um.. I’m not quite sure what the Lord wants to say.”

Getting Unexpected Ideas

This is why you need to practice by yourself. Then if you stop you can try again and speak again.

The best way to do it is to write it down. As you are writing new ideas will pop up. When something new that you weren’t thinking about comes to your mind, write it down. Get into the habit of tapping the things that come up from inside and make a note of them.

A lot of these things may be ideas. They may just be things that you are thinking of or things that come back from your memory. They may be things from the movie you watched the previous night.

Whatever it may be, just let it pour out. And every now and then something will pop out that you didn’t expect. You will find yourself writing something you didn’t expect to write. Now you are starting to get a flow from within.

The Importance of Revelation

As you write look for revelation. Look for something that you have never seen before. You see revelation means that God has added to that flow.

As you get the flow coming up from out of your mind, suddenly something new comes in. You stop and it is just as though a curtain opens and you see something that you never saw before.

You say, “Wow I have never seen that before.”

That is a revelation. It is an unfolding and uncovering. Now a prophet flows in revelation all the time. When you speak prophetically you don’t speak your own ideas or what you know about the person. You are speaking by revelation.

So you need to practice getting revelation. Whatever comes out that suddenly opens up to you, make sure to write it down immediately or you are going to forget it. When you do this you have it recorded and you may be able to use it in the future.

Talk to the Lord

Then as you have learned to get into that flow see if you can hear God's voice. How do you do that? The way you can do it is to hold a conversation with Him. And again you do it in writing.

Write down in your document what you would say to the Lord? Say something like,

"Lord I am having a problem right now. I'm just not sure what I should do in this situation. Lord I am feeling discouraged and down. Nobody cares about me. I'm all alone and don't think I am ever going to get married.

"Lord I can't lose weight no matter how I try. I'm just getting fatter and fatter all the time and I feel ugly."

Write down whatever is bothering you. Just talk to the Lord as though you were talking to a close friend. Again you will be amazed that as you start to speak words, things come out that you didn't have in your mind.

Listen for His Reply

Write to the Lord. Tell Him what is on your mind and ask Him questions. Then just stop and listen for His reply. What is He going to reply to you?

A conversation is always two ways isn't it? That is unless you are one of those people who like to talk about themselves all the time. I am sure you are not one of those people yourself. You talk and then you give the other person a chance. That is a conversation.

Now you are going to have a conversation with the Lord and you are going to do it on paper. So you write down what you want to say to the Lord, then you write down what He says to you.

You say, “How will I know what He says to me?”

Write down the first thing that comes to your mind. What would you expect the Lord to say to you?

Sounding Like Jesus

You see you need to have studied His Word and begun to know how He thinks. Perhaps you have studied the Gospels and seen how Jesus treated people. How did He treat those who came to Him? Someone would come to Him and say,

“Lord, please help me.”

What did Jesus reply to Him?

“I will not reply to you, you miserable, rotten sinner. Sort yourself out!”

Jesus didn’t do that did He? So if you come to Him with your problems, He is not going to speak back to you that way either. He is going to speak to you like He did then. You are going to hear the words that God would speak to you.

You say, “I probably wrote down the words that **I** would like God to speak to me.”

That is okay; it is a good start. Write it down. What does God say to you? You may start by saying to Him,

“Lord I’m feeling frustrated. I don’t know what to do anymore.”

What would the Lord say back to you? What would you like Him to say to you? Maybe you just want Him to say,

“I understand. I don’t condemn you. I care for you and would like to help you in this.”

Start to write down the first impressions that come back and start to hold this conversation with the Lord in writing. When you do that you are in fact speaking God’s word to yourself. You are practicing speaking prophecy to yourself, but you are doing it in writing.

Start Practicing

You may say to me now,

“What if I made it all up?”

Does it matter? Nobody is going to read it except you. You were just practicing, and if you got it all wrong, all you have to do is say,

“Well I was only practicing. It is not a serious thing. I’m not going to go and make major decisions in my life based on these little impressions I got. I’m just practicing.”

The good thing is the more you practice the better you get. There is an old expression that says:

Practice makes perfect

The more you practice the better you get. And after a while you find yourself starting to write down things that you didn’t think or expect. When that happens you know God has spoken.

You see if you had written what you thought He would say to you, you would have expected Him to say that. But He said something totally different and you think,

“I didn’t expect Him to say that. I didn’t think He would tell me to do that.”

Well it is the first good sign that you are in fact starting to hear His voice coming out from within you. So use writing to practice giving out the Prophetic Ministry by practicing on yourself.

Chapter 10 – Speaking Out Loud

When you have practiced prophesying in writing, then you need to move from there to actually speaking. This is the hard part. You are sitting all by yourself and talking to yourself. How do you prophesy to yourself?

Well you must firstly realize you are not alone, but that the Lord is there with you. The best place in fact to practice this is in prayer. I am still amazed to find that many people pray to the Lord in their minds.

You say, “Doesn’t the Lord understand my thoughts?”

Yes He does, but you don’t hold a conversation in your mind. A conversation means speaking words out loud. So here is the best way to practice speaking out loud. You should try praying out loud.

Talk to the Lord

The easiest way to do that is to find the nearest chair or some other place where Jesus could be sitting. Imagine Him sitting there, and when you pray your prayer instead of beaming it up into the clouds or the heavenly realm, just aim it at where He is sitting.

You may think,

“I’m praying my prayers to a chair.”

No you are praying it to Jesus in the chair. Just start talking to Him in conversation and start with prayer. Say to Him,

“Lord you know my situation. I need your help here. Lord if we don’t get money soon they are going to take the car back and I don’t know what we are going to do. Lord, please will you reach out and provide our financial needs.”

Or you say, “Lord this pain in my chest has me worried. I don’t know if it is my heart or what. Lord I need your healing touch.”

Start practicing talking to the Lord as though He is there, and say it out loud. You see if you imagine He is really there you won't feel weird talking out loud.

A great place to practice this is while you are riding in your car. There is always an empty seat next to you if you are riding alone. But it is not empty because Jesus is there. As you are driving, hold a conversation with Him as you would somebody else.

Hear Your Voice

You need to talk to Him. Then you need to speak words out loud and start to hear what your own voice sounds like. You see when you begin to flow in prophetic ministry, you are maybe praying with somebody and God gives you a prophetic word for them. Now you can't think,

"Well I have a prophetic word now and I hope this person can read my mind."

It is not going to happen. You are going to have to speak those words.

You say, "How do I speak prophecy? I'm not sure what to say. You know I'm not very good at speaking. I'm not really a talkative kind of person."

Well you are not going to do well in prophetic ministry until you talk, so practice talking by yourself. If you can't talk to yourself you are not going to talk to people and speak the prophetic word.

So start praying out loud and then talk to the Lord out loud as though He was standing there. Hold that conversation with Him. You have practiced it in writing, now you are going to hold it in speech.

Get on Your Own

You say, "I feel weird doing this."

Then go and find a place where you are all on your own. Lock yourself up in your room or go for a walk out in the field or wherever you want to.

A lovely place to go to is the beach. There is so much noise with the wind blowing and the waves crashing. Just talk to the Lord. Nobody can hear you

anyway. Imagine that as you are walking along the beach He is walking next to you and you are holding a conversation with Him.

You say, “But I’m talking to myself.”

No you are not; you’re talking to the Lord. Well you are talking to yourself because there is no physical person there.

Speaking Scriptures

Then you can actually talk to yourself.

You say, “How can I talk to myself?”

You can start by taking some Scriptures and speaking them out loud. That is talking and nobody is going to condemn you for quoting Scriptures. Say,

If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it shall be done for you.

Somebody may say to you,

“What did you say?”

“I was just quoting Scripture.”

“Oh, okay.”

You are not mad. You are talking to yourself but you are speaking Scripture. And if God gives you revelation from the Word when you speak His prophetic word, it is sometimes going to sound a bit like the Scriptures.

The same way that God spoke through the Scriptures, He may speak through you to other people. So if you are used to speaking Scriptures out loud, you will also get into the flow of how God speaks.

You see prophetic words often come with a different kind of language, simply because it is God speaking. And if God is to speak, you don’t think He is going to talk the way you do to your friends. God is a more austere person and He means business when He talks. So when He talks you expect to hear it.

You know they always do this in the movies. If God speaks you hear a booming, deep voice speaking. When you hear it you know it is God. When an ordinary person speaks they don't sound like God to you.

But it doesn't make any difference; we humans have a distinct way of speaking. If you are going to prophesy you are going to develop your own distinct way of speaking what God says. And when people hear it they will say,

"That doesn't sound like her."

"That doesn't sound like the way he normally speaks. There is something a bit more powerful and serious coming out here. I had better listen to it, because that may be God speaking to me."

Speaking Affirmations

You can also speak affirmations. What is an affirmation? It is when you start saying things like,

"I will do this. I will get to bed on time and I will get up early."

"I will stop eating junk."

"I will read at least one book at week."

"I will be nice to my wife."

These are all affirmations. You speak them to yourself, and you are actually giving yourself personal instructions like,

"I never end the evening with an untidy desk. I always put my clothes away. I do not throw my clothes on the floor."

Your wife is likely to be nodding her head and saying,

"Yes dear, say that over and over again. I will not throw my socks on the floor. I will not throw my socks on the floor."

It is good to do this; practice it. You will get lots of help from your wife if you start doing it.

You are starting to give yourself instructions and you are speaking to yourself. And as I shared earlier, when you are speaking words your mind comes under control. And as you are speaking those words, very often the revelation will come out while you are speaking.

Speaking Encouragement

Next you must learn to encourage yourself. You may wonder why you should do that.

Well firstly David did it. You just need to read some of the psalms. Sometimes David wrote the psalm to himself. He was singing songs to himself. He said in one psalm,

Why are you cast down oh my soul?

He was saying,

“Why are you so miserable, David? Sort yourself out.”

He was talking to himself and saying,

“David, stop being so miserable. You know that God is with you; come on, boy.”

You need to encourage yourself. Why should you do that? It is because most prophecy is just that; a word of encouragement.

Usually we are nice to ourselves. And if you have learned to speak words of encouragement to yourself, you will get into the habit of saying nice things to other people when God gives you a prophetic word. You will do that rather than saying,

“You miserable, useless Christian; I can see why God has a prophetic word for me to give to you. You need to sort yourself out! Your life is lacking, brother.”

That is not prophecy. God doesn’t speak that way. Yes there is a time for rebuke and we will deal with it later. But most of the time prophecy is exhortation and encouragement.

If you have never learned to encourage yourself, you are not going to find it easy

to be nice to other people. This is especially the case if you are one of those dominating PI types that always likes to put other people down, correct them and point out all of their errors all the time.

If you are that kind of person you had better learn to change before God can use you in prophetic ministry.

Speaking His Words

When you have learned to speak to yourself in all of these ways, try speaking to yourself the words that He would say to you. Now we are moving closer to prophecy aren't we? What is God saying to you?

You did it in journaling by writing it down. You wrote and spoke to the Lord, then wrote back what God said to you. Well how about practicing that out loud? Speak to the Lord, then imagine that He is speaking back to you.

This may feel weird to you. It is kind of like the picture of the guy playing chess with himself. He sits on one side of the table and makes a move. Then he goes to the other side and makes a move for his opponent. It is like you are playing a game with yourself.

When you prophesy out loud it is as though you are talking to yourself, but you are not. You are speaking the words and then you are speaking what God would say to you.

You say, "Lord, what should I do in this situation?"

What does the Lord say to you?

He says, "I think you should do exactly what is in your heart because I put that idea in there."

Or you say, "Lord do you think I should pack up my job?"

He says, "Where did the idea of packing up your job come from? Was it from me, or is it just that you don't like your boss?"

A Different Sound

Hold a conversation with Him and then try and identify the difference in voice. You know I speak with my normal voice, with my accent and slang and everything else. Then the Lord speaks back in a different, booming voice and says,

"**My child I am with you. Do not fear**."

You think, "Okay, that sounds a bit more like God."

You say, "But Lord I feel so horrible."

He says, "**I understand my child**."

Practice it, even though it might feel weird. It doesn't matter. The point is you get into an idea where you say,

"This is God speaking and it is serious. Let's do it right."

You are just practicing. But if somebody stumbles in on it or watches you and you are not aware of it, they are probably going to laugh at you and say,

"She's gone stark raving mad."

That's okay; anybody who has ever flowed in the prophetic ministry has at one stage or another been accused of being mad. It goes with the territory as you will see as we teach more on it.

Just practice on yourself and try all sorts of things. Practice on the dog if you want to.

"Teddy, thus says the Lord unto you, you will not eat bones anymore."

You say, "But that is stupid."

Yes it may seem stupid, but it gets you flowing. It gets you feeling comfortable with the sound of your own voice. And you may find extra things coming out that get you into the habit of hearing while you are speaking as I taught in Section 03.

To Summarize it All

Get into the Word. Learn to see how God thinks and let Him speak to you out of His Word. Practice praying prophetically. Start recording your dreams and see how God could speak to you symbolically.

Record mental pictures and visions that come to you and follow the same idea of letting God speak to you. Begin to express your thoughts in writing, and write the impressions that come back from your spirit from the Lord.

Finally, get to the stage of speaking things out loud. Pray out loud, confess the Word and eventually come to the place where you are actually speaking the words that God wants to say.

For now you are speaking the words that God is saying to you. That is safe ground, because if you heard wrong or missed it, nobody is harmed. And every time you do it you begin to feel more comfortable with it.

Eventually you start telling the difference between what you just made up in your mind, and that extra piece that keeps popping out. This is where you think,

“Hang on, I wasn’t planning to say that. That was unexpected.”

Those little things are what you begin to develop, and they are the little things that will become your prophetic ministry.

In conclusion, prophetic ministry must firstly be developed and then it must be demonstrated. The best place to do that is all on your own and practicing it on yourself.

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