



GROWING IN THE PROPHETIC

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Introduction

Prophetic ministry is birthed out of intimacy with God.

It is consumed with proclaiming the magnificence, holiness, glory and majesty of our all-powerful God, who rules and reigns supreme.

It is about unveiling the character, nature and purposes of God to His people, so that they can see their worth and purpose in the face of Christ Jesus.

Out of this place of revelation and lifestyle, the prophetic ministry focuses on preparing the bride for the King – seeing her arise into all He has for her – a pure and spotless bride who is consumed with love for her King, and passionately persistent in her mandate to disciple the nations.

DEFINITIONS:

PROPHECY:

“The speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God. A declaration of that which can not be known by natural means, a forth telling of the will of God.” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary) This can be done in many ways – speaking, writing & singing. It is revealing what is on God’s heart for His people, a church, city, nation, or situation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PROPHET:

“One who speaks forth or openly, a proclaimer of a divine message.” (Vine’s) A fore-teller (predict future events), a visionary (‘seer’).

DIFFERENCES IN THE PROPHETIC

1. MOTIVATIONAL GIFT: (ROM 12:6)

Greek word used here is ‘propheteia’, meaning prediction, insight and discernment.

- Given by the Father
- One of seven different motivational gifts that make up our personality
- We may be strongest in the area of prophecy. Jesus had a full complement of all seven giftings.
- This gift relates to what motivates us: why we do what we do, how we look at life etc. “the way we are wired”.

People with a strong **MOTIVATIONAL GIFT** of prophecy tend to be:

- Standard bearers
- Visionaries
- Creative thinkers
- Speakers of truth with conviction, courage and boldness.
- Strongly opinionated
- Forward-thinking, result orientated & proactive

2. GIFT OF PROPHECY (1 COR 12:1-11)

- Given by the Holy Spirit;
- One of nine gifts given to the Body of Christ;

- We can function in all nine gifts, but it is as the Holy Spirit chooses to use us;
- We are used according to our availability and level of faith;
- To strengthen, encourage, comfort and edify the church.

A person who flows strongly in the prophetic is said to have a '**Prophetic Ministry**'.

3. OFFICE OF A PROPHET (EPH 4:7 13)

- Given by Jesus;
- Part of the five-fold ministry
- Men and women given as gifts to the church whose role is to train and equip the Body of Christ so that he/she can become mature in Christ.
- Work with the apostolic ministry to build biblically sound foundations and structure into the church (Eph 2:20).
- The prophet operates alongside and under the authority of local elders, who are the highest form of government in the local church – for the protection of the saints and the purity of the Word in our midst.

Not all people who function in the gifts of prophecy are called to the office of a prophet. This office is chosen by Jesus himself; and there is a process of training and maturing involved. See 'levels in the prophetic'.



UNWRAPPING THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

1 Cor 14:1 – "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy."

- We need to **DESIRE** to be used in prophecy, out of a **BASE OF LOVE** for God and His people.

PURPOSE OF PROPHECY:

1 Cor 14:3-4, 24-25, 31: "*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their **strengthening, encouragement and comfort**. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies **edifies the church**... But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be **convinced** by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and **worship God**, exclaiming, 'God is really among you' ...*

*For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be **instructed** and **encouraged**."*

- **Strengthens** people in their faith;
- **Encourages** people to keep pressing through in their present situation;
- **Comforts** people in times of distress and hurt;
- **Edifies** (builds up) people in their faith;
- **Convicts** hidden motives of the heart and of sin;
- **Provokes** worship, God is shown as being real and is therefore worshipped;
- **Instructs** in the will and purposes of God.

IT ALSO:

- Brings correction and warning (Rev 2, 3);
- Provides direction and enhances vision;
- Provides and agenda for prayer;
- Confirms the Word (e.g.: During worship before the sermon);
- Provides strategy in warfare (2 Chron 20:14-17).

WHO CAN PROPHECY?

EVERYONE!

1 Cor 14:31 – "*For you can ALL prophesy in turn...*"

1 Cor 14:24 – "*... while everybody is prophesying...*"

THERE ARE NO EXCUSES! We have the Holy Spirit living inside us, and it is He who gives the gift of prophecy... therefore **we can all prophesy!**

NB: YOU EARN THE RIGHT TO PROPHECY THROUGH YOUR CHARACTER, NOT YOUR GIFTING.

HOW DO YOU PROPHECY?

Remember God loves you. He desires to use you. He is a God of communication – He has been speaking to His people since He made them, and He hasn't stopped since!

- Make yourself available to be used;
- Quiet your mind and focus on Him;
- Have a heart of love (1 Cor 13);
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit;
- Ask God to show you what He sees, or what He wants to say
- Keep your life pure – be a clean vessel (1Pet 1:15-16 & Rom 12:1-2)
- Know how He speaks:

1. Through scripture
2. A vision or picture
3. Sense/impression in your spirit or inner voice
4. Word of knowledge
5. Word/s
6. Just 'see'

GIVING THE WORD:

- Ask God if it is for prayer, proclamation or is it revelation?
- Learn the timing of God – When does He want you to release it?
- Be humble and open to correction;
- Give what God has given you, nothing more, nothing less!
- Don't ramble – learn to be accurate and concise;
- Be confident. Speak clearly and slowly;
- Don't look for 'signs' that you are right – speak in faith!

SOME TIPS:

1. Prophecy is often like inserting a key in a door ... God gives you the key (first part), and then, as you speak out, the door opens, and the rest of the word comes into view for you to speak.
2. Don't look with your natural eyes – see what God sees. Sometimes He will show you things that your natural mind will never think are possible. Believe what He is saying to you, and speak it confidently.
3. Don't bear responsibility for the recipient's response – that is between them and God. You are a mailman – deliver the message – that is your job! Have you ever seen your postman stand at your door wondering if you are going to pay your phone bill? In the same way your job is accomplished when the word has been delivered.
4. Submit any form of prophecy to elders before delivering them to people – especially life-directive and rebuke type words. Loose canon prophets only cause damage to people's lives.
5. Very important that when we want to bring any form of prophecy in the context of a meeting we consider the following: submitting to an elder, reading the meeting (has the moment passed), the need for order and protection, my response if my word is not given air, is my life generally in a good place with God, my spouse, with others, with elders?
6. People might query you later on certain aspects of the word if they need clarity. That's OK – often they might not understand exactly what God meant.

7. If you get it wrong – don't stress! Ask God to show you where you went wrong (maybe the word was for yourself) – repent and keep going. Focus on the blessing you will be in giving a word, not on what people will think if you get it wrong.
8. Remember that "*we know in part and we prophesy in part*" (1 Cor 13:9) – we never see the whole picture exclusively – that is what is great about team work – God shows us more, allowing us to see and understand more in our corporateness!

See 2 Kings 4:27 – a dead boy's mother comes to Elisha the prophet, and he can see that she is in distress, but he doesn't know why ... he says that the Lord has hidden it from him.

PROPHECY NEVER TAKES THE PLACE OF SCRIPTURE IN OUR LIVES

We live our lives according to the revealed word of God in scripture, not according to prophecy. Prophetic words are like markers in the distance that show us what to aim for etc. but our lives must always be based on the word.

RESPONDING TO PROPHECY

1. A personal prophetic word can be:
 - 1.1 a '**now**' word - you need it for where you are in your life at that moment,
 - 1.2 a '**confirming**' word - God saying you're on the right track, keep going,
 - 1.3 a '**future**' word – something God has for you to aim for in your future, or
 - 1.4 a '**new**' word – revelatory
 - 1.5 It could have **correctional** and **directional** aspects to it as well.
2. **ALL PERSONAL PROPHECIC WORDS ARE CONDITIONAL.** They depend upon our response to them, and whether or not we co-operate with God on the path that He is leading us on. God is showing us the **POSSIBLE, NOT THE INEVITABLE.** What becomes of the word depends upon us – it can remain words on a piece of paper that you can look at, or it can become part of the destiny in God that you live in.

PROPHECY INITIATES A PROCESS:

God wants to take you from the prophecy spoken, to the prophecy fulfilled.

After the calling comes the training. When we receive prophetic words, there are always **adjustments** we have to make.

Often, when we receive prophetic words, we think *'this is it, I'm on my way'*, but while we are looking at our future destiny in awe, God is looking at the things in our life and character that will prevent us from walking in that destiny, and so He initiates a **season of transformation**, so that our **character can be conformed to Christ's**, which enables us to fulfil the call He has on our life.

"Adversity is training for reigning" Graham Cooke.

Look at Joseph, and the process God took Him through (Gen 37:47):

- He has a dream that his brothers and father are bowing down to him (Gen 37:1-11)
- He is then sold into slavery by his brothers (Gen 37:12-36)
- Becomes Potiphar's attendant (Gen 39:7-21)
- Flees Potiphar's wife, and lands up in prison (Gen 39:7-21)
- Interprets the Pharaoh's dreams, and is made the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt (Gen 41:14-40)

When the word is finally fulfilled in Gen 45, he tells his brothers 3 times that what he went through was not their doing, but God's (Gen 45:5,7 & 8). He understood that **God had been training him. The process took 13 years.** He was 17 when he had his first dream (Gen 37:2), and was thirty when he served with Pharaoh (Gen 41:46).

Another example is David. Look at the 20 year process God took him through to prepare him for ruling Israel from 1 Sam 16 – 2 Sam 5.

THREE LEVELS OF THE PROPHETIC

1. SIMPLE PROPHECY

Where God uses you for words of encouragement to other believers – the church is blessed and people are edified, encouraged and strengthened in their faith.

2. PROPHETIC MINISTRY

You are extended prophetically into a bigger context – words for other churches and for cities. You are used more in directional and correctional words. Your ministry takes on new dimensions, and there is the paralleled character development that is vital. As you go deeper into it, God will use you to train others, lead workshops, release others, and increase your trans local sphere of ministry. There will be an increase in the amount and significance of dreams and visions, and God will take you deeper into the supernatural.

This progression will take years, and as you progress, there may be evidence of a call to a prophetic office. The call to a prophetic office is **DESIGNED TO KILL YOU. GOD WILL KILL EVERY OUNCE OF YOUR FLESH, AND HE WON'T APOLOGISE!**

3. PROPHETIC OFFICE

Prophets have a deep and mature understanding of the Kingdom of God, of the nations of the world, and how they stand in the things of God. They have a weighty authority as they represent Him in nations before rulers, political figures and governments. Their ministry has clear signs of the supernatural presence of the Lord.



THE CALL OF JEREMIAH

Jer 1:4,5,9,10,17a. *"Before **I formed you** in the womb **I knew you**, before you were born **I set you apart**; **I appointed you** as a prophet to the **nations**... Then the Lord reached out his hand and **touched my mouth** and said to me, 'Now, I have put **My words in your mouth**. See, today I appoint you over **nations and kingdoms** to **uproot and tear down**, to **destroy and overthrow**, to **build** and to **plant** ... **Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you.**"*

1. **I formed you** – Jeremiah's identity was secure in the fact that God had formed him. He was intentioned and purposed by God.
2. **I knew you** – Jeremiah knew that he was known by God, and therefore his ministry was before, and unto God, and not people.
3. **Before you were born I set you apart** – God had purposed Jeremiah's destiny and call in him before he was born, God had set him apart. He could thus rest in the fact that it was not his own choosing.

4. **I appointed you** – Jeremiah was appointed by God, and not man. Prophetic ministry and the call to the office of a prophet are from God alone.
5. **Nations** – the focus of the prophetic ministry and of the office of a prophet is translocal – the nations of the earth (see ‘apostolic/prophetic’)
6. **Touched my mouth** – there is a closeness and intimacy required with God for Him to trust you with His words.
7. **Over nations and Kingdoms** – the office of a prophet places you in spiritual authority over man and the enemy. Prophets represent the King of Kings, who is the most powerful authority in the universe.
8. **Get yourself ready** – when God gives us a prophetic word that lays out what He is calling us into, we need to co-operate, plan and equip ourselves in line with that word. The word is not just going to fulfil itself on its’ own. We need to partner with the word. Too many people just expect it to happen – ‘the prophet said it, so it will happen’ – this is so wrong! We need to do our part by doing the necessary training and ‘leg work’, so that we are ready, and the word can come to pass – we want to walk in our destiny, just like Jeremiah did. (see ‘responding to prophecy’)
9. **Stand up** – We need to be in a position of readiness, so that when God says ‘go’ we can go! Jeremiah had to be ready for the word of the Lord when it came to him, and to do what God asked him to do with it. Our lives need to be lives of perpetual ‘readiness’.
10. **Whatever I command you** – prophetic ministry is about bringing the word that God wants, when He wants it, and to whom He wants it to be given. It is about faithfulness and obedience. Jeremiah could not choose which parts of the word he carried, he would like to leave out and he didn’t mince his words (see chs 2-5) – he simply delivered the messages from God that he had to deliver. **He was faithful to the King, not fearful of man.**

THE MINISTRY OF A PROPHET IS TO:

1. **UPROOT AND TEAR DOWN** – that which is not of God – be it mindsets, belief systems, behaviour or demonic strongholds.
2. **DESTROY AND OVERTHROW** – rulership, of any form, other than that of God through Christ Jesus. This is strong, aggressive language that speaks of obliteration and aggressive destruction.

3. **BUILD AND TO PLANT** – After dismantling and destroying the domain and rulership of the enemy, the prophet builds and sows the truth and purposes of God into the church's life, in order that she be built up, strengthened, envisioned, equipped and empowered.

PROPHETS ARE SERVANTS

See 1 Kings 18:1,15,36.

God is not looking for superstars; He is looking for men and women who are willing to lay their lives down in service to Him. He is looking for people who LIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE 'AUDIENCE OF ONE', and whose sole desire is to glorify the King (*Col 3:17 – And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*).

PROPHETS:

1. Train and equip God's people to hear God for themselves
2. Teach and train the church regarding prophecy, and help them establish the correct framework within the church for it.
3. Foretell the word of the Lord for the present (through teaching, preaching and/or prophesying)
4. Foretell aspects of the future as revealed to them by God.
5. Open the eyes of the church to see God's perspective – 2 Kings 6:15-17. Elisha asks God to open the spiritual eyes of his servant so that he would see the armies of God that were with them.
6. Are catalysts – they make things happen. They release vision and calling, and call the church to receive it.
7. Are active in preparing the bride for Jesus (Is 40:3 & Luke 1:76-79)
8. Are focussed on the bride becoming pure and holy.
9. Give strategy (2 Chron 20:14-17)
10. Are watchmen (Is 21:6, Ez 3:17 & 22:30)

GOD'S WORD



*"Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has My word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with **grain**?' declares the Lord. '**Is not My word like fire,**' declares the Lord, '**and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?**'" (Jer 23:28, 29)*



- **Grain** – feeds God's people and brings nourishment
- **Fire** – Burns away that which is not of God, and 'reveals the quality of each man's work' (1 Cor 3:13)
- **Hammer** – is used for breakthrough, and to open up the way of God. It also judges the heart (Heb 4:12).



PROPHETIC PARTNERSHIP:

1. APOSTOLIC PROPHETIC PARTNERSHIP

The church is *"built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone."* (Eph 2:20)

Prophets see the road that God is taking the church on, and they are able to set up markers and signposts, so that the church can see where she is headed, and the route she must take. The apostolic ministry is able to use this information to build the road, and make sure that it is within the set boundaries. There is a constant link and working together of the visionary 'seeing' and the building 'establishing'.

Prophetic ministries have to be apostolic. The prophetic comes to empower, envision, free, and release God's people so that they can heed the call to go and make disciples of all nations.

We need to have Isaiah's understanding:

Is 6:8 – *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"*

In the same way, after God had called Jeremiah, He says: **"Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you..."** (Jer 1:17a), and again **"Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem..."** (Jer 2:2).

Ezekiel, too, was sent: *"He said: 'Son of man, I am sending you...'* (Ez 2:3a), and *"The people to whom I am sending you..."* (Ez 2:4a).

True prophets help people to see their treasure in Christ (2 Cor 4:7) so that they will count the cost, lay down their lives, and complete the good works that God has prepared for them to do (Luke 14:26-30 & Eph 2:10).

- Once people have a revelation of God, and who they are in Him, they will be willing and hungry to become all they can be in Christ.

In Judges 6, God comes to speak to Gideon, who is hiding from the Midianites in a winepress threshing wheat. God calls him a 'mighty warrior' (v.12), and then tells him to go and 'save Israel out of Median's hand' (v.14). Gideon replies that he is from the weakest clan, and that he is the youngest in his family (v.15) – this guy has a serious confidence problem!

But, that same night, Gideon tears down his father's Asherah pole and altar to Baal, and builds an altar to the Lord in the same place (v.25-28). The Lord then uses Gideon to bring victory to Israel (Jdgs 7).

- God **speaks to the potential and treasure** in Gideon
- Gideon starts **to trust and believe God**, and put his **faith in Him**.
- Gideon **fulfills** that which God had called him to do.

PROPHETS SPEAK TO THE GOD GIVEN TREASURE AND POTENTIAL IN PEOPLE, WHICH CAUSES THEM TO RISE UP IN THEIR IDENTITY IN HIM AND DO THAT WHICH GOD IS ASKING THEM TO DO. THEY EXTRACT THE PRECIOUS FROM THE WORTHLESS.

2. PROPHETIC PASTORAL PARTNERSHIP

There is a powerful working relationship between the prophetic and pastoral ministries in the church.

The prophetic can be used to bring

- Breakthrough;
- Vision;
- Freedom, and
- Courage in a believer's life.

When the treasure of God in them is spoken to, it is easier for them to rise up and take hold of God for that which He has taken hold of them for. Out of this place of passion and hunger for more, the life issues and obstacles that have been standing in their way will bubble up to the surface, and the pastoral ministry is then utilized to walk alongside and encourage them as they take hold of their destiny in Christ. This is an active, intentional walk.

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." (Matt 11:12)

BECOMING A PROPHETIC PEOPLE

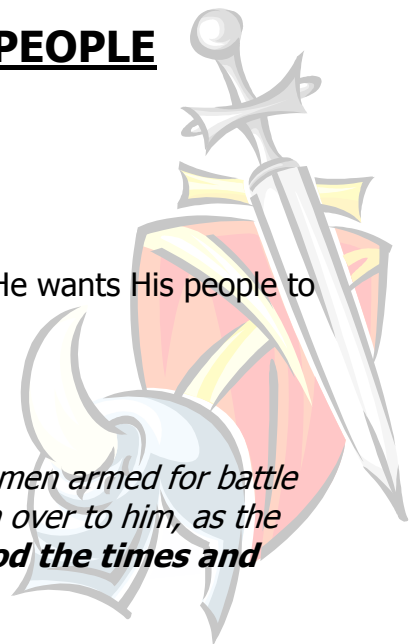
1. PROPHETIC LIFESTYLES

He wants us to have prophetic lifestyles.

God does not just want people who can prophesy – He wants His people to incorporate the prophetic in all that they do.

2. ARMED FOR BATTLE

1 Chron 12:23,32a – *"These are the numbers of the men armed for battle who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul's kingdom over to him, as the Lord had said ... **men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do**"*



Armed for battle – a prophetic people understand that they are in a worldwide war for the souls of men, and they are ready for the Lord to use them.

Understood the times – this is a prophetic spirit – knowing what time/season we are in, and having understanding of it. Prophetic people understand the time and season that the world and the church are in.

Knew that Israel should do – prophetic people need to know what it is we must do 'now' – we need to lead a spiritual response to get us to do what God wants. They have an understanding of the enemy's strategy, and have strategies and tactics in warfare.

3. FORERUNNER SPIRIT

To be a prophetic people, we need to have a **forerunner spirit** – we go through things with God **before the time** so that we can lead God's people through at the **appointed time**. We have to have the attitude of '**in me first**', so that when we prophesy, we don't just give the message, we **are the message**.

Is 8:18b – "*We are **signs and symbols in Israel** from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.*"

Prophetic people respond to God, they do not react to the situation
(2 Kings 6)

4. SEEKING GOD

We can not expect to be entrusted with the word of the Lord if we do not know Him, and if we do not spend time with Him.

WE DO NOT SEEK HIM FOR HIS WORD, WE SEEK HIM FOR WHO HE IS.

Out of the place of intimacy and relationship with Him, His word will come to us.

- **Is 55:8,9** tells us that God's ways and thoughts are not like ours, and that they are far above our ways and thoughts.
- **1 Cor 2:9-16** tells us that it is the Holy Spirit that knows and reveals the deep things of God. When we build our relationship with God, He can trust us, and so He starts to reveal His ways and thoughts to us.

5. PEOPLE OF PURITY AND PASSION

- 5.1 We can not expect God to speak through us if our lives are not clean and pure. If our focus is to create a platform for ourselves through the gifting God has given us, we will grieve His heart, and His anointing will lift from us.
- 5.2 Jer 23:18,22 shows us that to carry the word of the Lord, we need to be people that spend time with Him.

*"But which of them has **stood in the council of the Lord to see or hear His word?** Who has listened and heard His word? ... **But if they had stood in My council,** they would have proclaimed My words to My people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds."*

- 5.3 To stand in God's presence we need to: (Ps 24:3-6)
- have clean hands (Actions)
 - have pure hearts (Attitudes and motives)
 - be free from idolatry (Worship and live for God alone)
 - seek His face (Seek God for who He is)

See also Ps 15; Ps 27:4 and Is 33:14-17

6. WE NEED TO BE PROPHETIC IN ALL WE DO

Our Worship

Trust God to use us to release new sounds and songs. We don't need to copy anyone else – we are all originals, and God loves releasing His creativity through us! Music releases the prophetic – 2 Kings 3:15,16.

Our Prayer

Trust God to reveal strategies of the enemy, to show us how to pray, and to pray the future into being (to call those things that aren't as though they are)



Our Dancing

When we dance in worship, to trust God to use us to symbolically portray what is on His heart for His people.

Our Speech

Our mouths and tongues are given over to Him so that we can speak His truth at any time – in a telephone conversation, at the dinner table, when we are out with friends etc.

Our Writing

When we e-mail, when we sms, in poetry, written stories, when we write plays and perform in productions.

Our Workplace

Trust God to reveal things to you about the people you work with, so that after you have built up a relationship with them, you can speak into their lives. Trust God to give you strategy and insight into your business, and for business decisions.

Our Recreation

Ask God for words of knowledge for waitresses, for the people who are around you when you are on holiday, on the sport's field and at the gym. Build relationships with them, and allow God to use you to speak into their lives. But remember to be lead by the Spirit at all times! You need wisdom!

Our Evangelism

The prophetic is a powerful weapon in evangelism. You don't always need to prophesy, but ask God to give you an inside track into the person's heart and mind. (WE HAVE AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE!!!)

Our Families

Being prophetic in our families, especially DADS!!!!!!!!, speaking and declaring God's preferred future over our wives, children and marriages.

THE PROPHETIC PULPIT

The platform for the prophetic is not a pulpit at the front of a church building, it is a **LIFE LAID DOWN IN SERVICE TO THE LORD.**

The prophetic has incorrectly been equated with a ministry that is invited into the life of a church for a few days or a conference – **God wants it to be part of our everyday life.**

In Ezekiel's vision of the river of God that flowed from the temple out to the sea (Ez 47:1-12), the river got deeper and deeper the further it flowed, and the closer it got to the sea (v.3-6). It then entered the sea, where it made the salt water fresh (v.8).



Where the river went, there were swarms of living creatures, and many kinds of fish. It also said that there would be fishermen along the shore (v.9,8).

Jesus said that the water He gives us to drink will become a spring of water in us, welling up to eternal life (John 4:14). We are the carriers of the 'river of God'. We need to understand that God wants His river to flow out into the world, so that we can take His life, truth and healing to the people who need it. The river flows from the temple, to the sea. It does not remain in the temple, and it gets deeper as it flows towards the sea.

GOD WANTS THE PROPHETIC RIVER TO FLOW IN THE WORLD – WHERE IT WILL BRING HIS TRUTH, LIFE AND BREAKTHROUGH IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

It is interesting to note that fishermen will stand along the shore (v.10). We need to understand that we are taking the truth and life of God to a dying world, in order that they may believe and be saved. Jesus called His disciples to follow him, and He told them that He would make them **fishers of men** (Matt 4:19) – **that call has not changed.**



HIS WORD IN US

1. We take God's word to us, and we make it part of our life:
 - Jer 15:16 – "*When your words come, **I ate them:** they were **my joy and my heart's delight**, for I bear Your name, O Lord God Almighty.*"
 - Ez 3:3 – "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.' **So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.**"
2. We rest in the fact that it is His word, and not our responsibility to see the word we deliver fulfilled:
 - Is 51:16a - "**I have put My words in your mouth** and covered you with the shadow of My hand"
 - Is 46:11b – "*What **I have said**, that will **I bring about**; what **I have planned**, that will **I do.**"*
 - Is 55:11 - "*so is **My word** that **goes out** from **My mouth**: It will not return to Me empty, but **will accomplish** what I desire and **achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**"*

ABOVE ALL, LET'S REMEMBER WHAT AN AWESOME PRIVILEGE IT IS TO PARTNER WITH OUR GOD AND KING IN THE DISCIPLING OF THE NATIONS, AND THE PREPARATION OF HIS BRIDE.

MAY THE CRY OF OUR HEARTS BE THAT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST:

"THE BRIDE BELONGS TO THE BRIDEGROOM. THE FRIEND WHO ATTENDS THE BRIDEGROOM WAITS AND LISTENS FOR HIM, AND IS FULL OF JOY WHEN HE HEARS THE BRIDEGROOM'S VOICE."
(John 3.29)

ADDENDUM:

PROPHETIC ETIQUETTE

ALL PROPHECY SHOULD BE RECORDED. This allows:

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

You are accountable for the word that you give and the content of it. This leaves no room for misinterpretation.

2. ACCURACY

The person who received the word has an exact copy of the word, which allows them to prayerful consider what God has said, make the necessary adjustments, and if necessary, consult their leadership on aspects of the word, and how best to respond to it. It also frees up the person who is receiving the word to relax when being prophesied over, instead of frantically trying to remember everything that is said.

3. JUDGING AND WEIGHING

The Word tells us to judge prophecy (1 Thess 5:20, 21 and 1 Cor 14:29) we do not just receive everything that is said to us, we must make sure that it is really God speaking. This also allows any directive or corrective part of the word to be worked through properly and with wisdom.

- Does the word edify, exhort and comfort? (1 Cor 14:3)
- Test the spirit (1 John 4:1-3, Rev 19:10, Acts 16:16-18)
- Does it conform to scripture? (Is 8:20)
- Does it glorify Jesus Christ? (John 16:14, 1 Cor 12:3)



4. WEAPON FOR WARFARE

1 Tim 1:18 "*Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight*"

Like David and Joseph, we need to hold on to that which God has said, so that we can persevere and push through into our inheritance in Him.

The best way to have words recorded is to invest in a Dictaphone. This enables you to record words whenever God speaks to you, and also allows you to record personal words for people when you are ministering in a translocal capacity. Carry it with you wherever you go so that you are always prepared. Make sure that your batteries are full, and that you have tapes to record on.

If you are ministering translocally, find out from the leadership of that church how they would like you to work, so that you know whether they will provide tapes or not.

All prophetic ministries are submitted to the leadership of the local church. If you are ministering in a translocal capacity, you are submitted to that leadership – work with and alongside them, but under their authority. Submit your word/s to the leaders, and wait for them to direct you in how they want the word/s to be released, or until they give you the ‘go ahead’ to flow in the prophetic.