

Stewarding the Prophetic, Part 1 (Tim Miller, Sep 22, 2013, Gateway Fellowship)

1.) The Big Picture

- Root --> Fruit --> Seeds --> Speaks Forever
- Identity --> Destiny --> Legacy --> Glory

Most prophecy is meant to orient you more deeply in your identity, move you into your destiny, or declare your God-intended legacy. Identity is how God sees you (**Eph 1:5**), destiny are the good works he prepared in advance for you to walk in (**Eph 2:9-10**). Paul reminded Timothy of how he received a destiny word through the elders via prophecy:

1 Timothy 4:14 ESV Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

2.) Biblical prophecy contains occasional foretelling, but mostly forthtelling.

Foretelling means predicting the future, forthtelling just means speaking God's heart into the current situation. God's heart is exposed in prophesy. Hence, the prophets are often a dramatic group, passionate, over-the-top, expressive, and even imbalanced. Prophets often bring an imbalanced message in order to counterbalance what is currently out of alignment.

3.) Most prophecy is conditional. **Jeremiah 18:7-10** says that if God promises to bless somebody and then they turn from his ways and live in wickedness then in response he will change his mind and not bring about the blessing that he declared. And if he promises to curse somebody but then they repent of their wickedness and instead walk in his ways, then in response he will call off the hounds and bless them instead. Biblical prophecy is conditional because God is interactive, responsive, and righteous.

4.) OT vs NT Prophecy:

In the Old Covenant, there were times when the word of the Lord was rare, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit would come upon a few deliverers (judges), or prophets, and occasionally even a king or two. In these situations, the prophet (Samuel for example) spoke authoritatively, much like we understand the Bible today.

Numbers 11:29 ESV But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!”

Acts 2:17-18 ESV ““And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all

flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

In the New Covenant, the Spirit is poured out upon the whole people of God so that we are all directly taught by divine revelation. “The anointing teaches you all things (**1 John 2:27**).” As such, prophets are common, and all prophesy is supposed to be sifted and the good extracted, and the rest simply left behind.

5.) All believers can prophesy (1 Cor 14:31), but not all have the vocation of "prophet." Prophets are those whose revelations come more frequently, with more detail, and have more authority when shared. Authority not only in being true, but carrying a deep resonance with those whose spirits are open and mature. But all believers can prophesy, which changes the game. To prophesy means we must try, and we must learn. The OT paradigm of “if you miss it we kill you with stones,” doesn’t work with the new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. ***We grow in the gifts just like we learn to read, write, play guitar, or any other thing. We learn by doing. Trial and error. You’ll never learn if you aren’t free to fail.*** So if you think of it in Old Covenant terms you won’t pray for the gift and you won’t step out and ask the person, “I’m sensing this - is that correct or not? I feel like the Lord is saying this - does that make sense to you?” That’s way better, by the way, than shouting “Thus says the Lord!” How are we supposed to test the word when you declared it in such a way that doesn’t seem to allow us to do our biblical duty? My personal opinion.

6.) 1 Corinthians 14:3 says that NT prophecy is given for "upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation." Declaring to people how God sees them (identity), how he wants to use them (destiny), and his heart for them usually tends to be upbuilding, encouraging, and consoling. Even a rebuke from the mouth of The Lord is from a heart of fatherly love and is not meant to crush, but to establish us. Corrective words do come.

Acts 15:32 ESV And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

Many times people expect prophets to speak in King James English, thee and thou, and be stern, talking about sin and repentance, but the dominant picture of the prophetic in the New Testament is that of rooting and establishing the church in the Gospel, and calling people up into their anointings, leaving people in awe of the grace of God.