

Activating the Prophetic, series finale

Prophetic Protocols for Gateway Fellowship

- Check with a leader before blurting it out
- Just because you hear from God doesn't mean you have to share it with the church: "the spirits of prophets are subject to the control of the prophets" (**1 Cor 14:32**)
- God will show you...
 - IF you should share
 - WHEN to share
 - HOW to share

Activating the Prophetic

1.) Three Stages

1. Revelation (good and bad figs)
2. Interpretation (exiles and rejects)
3. Application (exiled take hope)

Example: **Jeremiah 24** (good and bad figs) is an excellent example of Revelation/Interpretation/Application, as is Peter's vision in **Acts 10**.

I heard "father's heart." over one of the teen challenge guys the other week, and I didn't know what it meant so I asked if he had kids, "yes, I have a daughter." So I prayed for strength in that area of his life. His application should be to focus on growth in his fathering since God targeted it.

I saw the word "Renovate" over someone's chest, and as I began to speak the whole meaning of that one word just tumbled out like a dance where you realize you know the next move only once you start dancing.

When it comes to interpretation, you need is wisdom for understanding why God is revealing something. **"God, what does this mean?"** Sometimes it takes *more revelation* to understand revelation. But many times, if you know God's heart and purposes as seen in Jesus, then you have a pretty good idea of what He might be up to. Here are some examples:

- "cancer" - Don't tell them you see them having cancer and walk away! Healing
- "marital struggles" - Don't tell them their marriage will come under attack and walk away; speak and pray harmony and love!! If a builder finds a weak spot in a wall, they strengthen it! You are a builder! Prophets build up the weak! (**1 Cor 14:3**)
- "bad spirits present" - don't just release a word about bad spirits being present; interpretation and application! Move in Christ's authority, pull it out by the roots and then sow the opposite spirit in its place! Awareness of demonic presence can be a nice trap that the enemy uses to get you to be problem-focused, and if you let it move you it results in a subtle shift in your thinking. In subtle ways, in the circumstance in question God will diminish, Satan will look intimidating, and you will want to get everybody praying. Be careful that what you are calling spiritual warfare isn't just being impressed with the enemy. A simple vision of Jesus as He is, standing over the circumstance, is probably the solution. Be careful to STAND IN CHRIST'S AUTHORITY and not get intimidated.

2.) We prophesy in part.

“For we know in part, and we prophesy in part (**1 Cor 13:9**).” Prophets don’t know everything about you. They cannot simply look around the room at will and see everyone’s garbage. Rather, the Holy Spirit reveals things like clues. We see a little bit, and we say what we see, but the *little we see* reveals to the person that *God sees and knows them* intimately and completely.

3.) We prophesy "in proportion to our faith."

Rom 12:6 “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith...”

Don't speak *beyond* what you believe. Don't speak *less than* you believe. Faith comes with the word and enables you to step out and say what you could not have said through natural means. An actual gift of faith comes along with the revelation so that we believe for what is declared. I learned this through experience and then discovered it was biblical later.

Don't speak what your heart doesn't believe. Speak clearly what your heart says, “Somehow, I see this. Somehow I know this. Somehow I intuit this.” That's in proportion to faith. When a prophetic flow is happening, you will feel faith rise in a given direction and you simply know things that you don't know once the mantle lifts or the word is over. I've prophesied things that later I thought, “How could I possibly tell them that? There are so many factors including human free will that make that theologically untenable as an ironclad promise!” But in the moment it was clear enough to step across the line and speak because faith rose up.

4.) God's ways of communicating are often much more easy, natural, and not nearly as dramatic as we might imagine. They usually sound almost like your own thoughts. Samuel thought it was just Eli calling (1 Samuel 3). Elijah heard God speaking in the gentle whisper, not the wind, earthquake or the fire (1 Kings 19:11-13). Sharing prophecy should be common, non-hyped, and not overly weird.

5.) God seems to develop a unique way of communicating to each of us, and even a personalized symbolic system. I might see an eagle and for me that means the prophetic. I might see a lion, and for me that means courage, boldness, or royalty. Sometimes it doesn't pay to try to interpret. (Wolf howling at the moon). One guy sees faces of people he knows over the audience in a certain section and he knows that means God is giving him a name, gender, and a section of the congregation where somebody is who God wants to single out for ministry.

6.) Some common ways God may give a revelation...

- Hear it (aurally or the inner voice)
- Picture it
- dream it
- See text
- Flow out as you speak
- Feel it in your body
- Smell it
- Experience God's emotion (divine pathos)
- Suddenly "knowing" how to proceed

What these various ways of recognizing God's special leading have in common is that they require us to **learn to pay attention** to all of our senses, but even more than that, our spirit. Jacob declared "Surely God is in this place and I didn't know it!" (**Gen 28:16**). God has often been speaking to us but many times we didn't recognize it. We were unaware.