

[February 13th, 2017: Prophecy Class 4]

Let us review what we covered in the last class.

Paul put a premium on demonstrations as proof of who God is backing.

We learned the Holy Spirit confirms what and who is of Him through the gifts of the Spirit and manifestations.

The Spirit not only confirms by demonstrations, but also by speaking directly to believers and by prophecy.

We answered the question, “Do you believe that Satan is for-or-against the gifts of the Spirit?” We found that if a Christian is against the gifts, then he, or she, is in ‘dark company’.

It is all about the Spirit and knowing His voice.

We then looked at some examples of prophetic manifestations.

Prophecy is also used for confirming ministries and callings.

Next we cover getting started in prophesying.

We then went over some of the fundamentals of prophesying.

Finishing up, we discussed some of the elemental basics of prophesying.

How does someone find themselves in the prophetic office?

“To find God’s will, you must have no will of your own.” Steve Wilber

First

God the Father draws you to Jesus, you respond, you accept the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made upon the cross for your sins, you confess your sins, asking forgiveness from Father. You recognize His lordship and walk in obedience. You are saved.

[Joh 6:44] Jesus said that, “No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draws him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”

[Jn.10: 27] “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”

Willingness is a must.

[1Cor.14:1] Pursue love; burn with zeal after the spiritual [gifts], but ‘to even a greater degree’ that you may ‘speak forth by divine inspiration’ {prophesy}. *You have to go after it!*

Did you catch that? Desire to prophesy at a greater intensity than “burning-with-zeal”. That is like eating Naga Jolokia chile peppers in Death Valley! {*the hottest peppers in the hottest place*}

The word also tells to “not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy with the laying on of hands by the leadership.” [1Tim.4:14]

Willingness is no good without obedience.

[Rom.8: 14] “For as many as are *led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

*led = #71; *to drive, lead; to move, impel*, of forces and influences affecting the mind. Not open doors!

I have had people tell me that they have never felt *led*. What they felt was *^lead*, and they were sitting on it! If you are not willing, and desirous, and seeking, then all you will ever feel is *^lead*. [*^that heavy gray metal*]

You will not spiritual mature without being obedient. And you cannot find the way there without the Holy Spirit’s leading.

Progression of the Offices

A person holding an office of the 5-fold ministries has usually held offices of a lesser rank; teacher before pastor, then evangelist, then prophet, then apostle. No one becomes an apostle without experiences of many of the lesser offices. The lesser experiences and knowledge are needed to walk in the calling of the office.

[Eph 4:11] “And he gave apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”

Let us take Tommy Hicks for example. God takes the *unwanted minor healer/evangelist and turns him into a prophet/evangelist/ apostle. [Juan Peron and Argentina, 1954] *He was considered ‘minor league’ (of a lesser caliber) by men, those of his own denomination; not by the Lord Jesus Christ. When we do not walk by the Spirit, we use carnal reasoning, and do not see as the Spirit sees.

All prophets prophesy, but not all who prophesy are prophets.

Acts 21:8-10, shows this well.

[Act 21:8] “On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.

[Act 21:9] “He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

[Act 21:10] “While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.”

The daughters had the gift of prophesying, and Agabus had the gift and the calling.

Some miscellaneous housekeeping...

A prophecy can be given to an individual privately, or to an individual in a church (ie. local gathering) setting. That is God’s decision.

Corporate prophecy is expressing the thoughts of God that He wants spoken in that venue, now, to those present.

The Lord may have you interpret someone’s dream or vision, privately or corporately.

Do not allow the person to give you their input or semi-interpretation first. You need to avoid being influenced. Separating your own thoughts from the Lords can be difficult enough without adding theirs into the mix.

Knowing the application of a prophecy...

Do not presume that because you are the vessel giving a personal prophesy, that you will also know its application. It is none of your or anyone else’s business, unless the Lord does reveal it publicly. It may be a personal matter, and again, none of your business.

I had been prophesied over by a small group, and given prophesies as pieces of a puzzle. One said that I would be taking a trip. Another shared that I have been wearied. Someone else prophesied that another person would pay for my trip. And their last puzzle piece was that I would be going to the ocean.

They were all part of a single church. They had been taught that if you gave a prophecy, then the Spirit would always tell you the interpretation and application in the person’s life.

Since they were a team, one of them had the application on behalf of the group. He spoke it and they all bore witness (ie. agreed) that it was correct.

It was that I am wearied and that the Lord was going to send me on a vacation trip to the ocean, paid for by someone else.

They were correct that I was wearied. But, I was wearied because I had been on a trip to the ocean. It was payed for by someone else. But because of the trip, I was wearied and in need of a vacation.

[2Ki 4:27] “And when she came to the man of God, Elisha, to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Leave her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD has hid it from me, and has not told me.”

Here even the great prophet Elisha did not have all revealed to him.

Prayer line...

You may find yourself with a prayer line fanning-out before you.

People want prayer, but often the non-Spirit led will tell you their problems first, who is to blame (never themselves), and what the answer is that you need to pray for to fix it all.

If the person is married, they will tell you that it is their spouse that needs the fixing.

You have just been tempted to pray *their* answers for them, and not to give them the corrective prophecy that the Lord is telling you to deliver.

Why is God not speaking to me, someone asks? A person may want or hope for another prophetic word. Sometimes the prophetic word is that the Lord is not interested in giving them another word, when they have not been obedient to what He has already told them through prophecy or the Bible.

I call this 'Lost and Found'

A Brother Jess and myself were to minister in tandem one evening. The hosts, Jess, and I were the only ones there; the expected others were not arriving.

Our location was known to many of the people coming. They had been there on multiply occasions.

We prayed and I had word about satanic interference preventing people from finding the meeting hall.

I spoke the word of knowledge, we prayed more and people started arriving immediately!

They all were saying that they could not find the place. They seemed lost. Then suddenly it was revealed.

A spirit of prophecy can fall upon a group.

In 1Samuel 19:20, the Word says, “Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.”

I was participating in a service of about one-hundred and twenty people; there was humility and repentance before the Lord. The Spirit came upon the congregation and we all collapsed to the floor in one swift movement. We were all weeping. [Half of the congregants were women in skirts and dresses.

None of the women had been uncovered by the fall. When the Holy Spirit does the 'slayed-in-the-Spirit', He does not expose anyone; no privacy cloths necessary.]

What does their prophecy mean?

Do not judge the application of a prophecy spoken into someone else's life.

It may be a private prophecy, even though it was given publicly.

This even applies if you are the person prophesying.

The Lord *might* give you understanding, and have you prophesy that also over the person.

The Lord does give prophecies with understanding for the whole congregation to hear, when it also involves them. An example would be a prophecy about someone's call into ministry. Since ministry is for/to the body of Christ, it is appropriate for the congregation to hear and know the meaning of the prophecy.

A Corporate Prophecy

In June of 1990, the Lord Jesus Christ gave me a prophecy for the United States Of America.

I delivered that prophecy.

Neither the congregation I attended at the time, nor other groups and individuals I told, said that they believed it.

Here is that prophecy, "Islam shall arise as a dark cloud upon this nation [the United States of America], as a tribulation and a sword in the hand of God to His people. The Lord has arisen and has stood off from His throne."

The prophecy was fulfilled, and is known as "9-11".

Speech Turning Prophetic

The Lord can anoint you speaking and turn it into prophecy. This happens most frequently when counseling, exhorting, or encouraging. It can be in either a personal or corporate setting.

As you are speaking, the Spirit alerts you that "you are now prophesying".

Prophetic Intercessory

This gift is very unsettling for a person who has the gift, and is not yet aware that they have the gift or what it is.

You will start having strong emotional sensations with no attributing circumstances to account for them.

You are experiencing someone else's emotions. That someone else may even be the Spirit of God.

The *gift of intercession* is for intervening in prayer before the Father on behalf of another person, as directed by the Holy Spirit.

You might also be sensing the Holy Spirit's emotions during a time of spiritual battle.

Kitney was attending a weekend teens' seminar. She started to have emotional feelings of uncleanness and regret during a service. She was experiencing the emotional convictions of a few of the other students. She prayed as led by the presence of the Spirit. These other students yielded to the Spirit, and then shared their feelings of uncleanness and regret, and their acceptance of Christ.

Mary was sitting in a back seat, in class, at a Bible college. She suddenly became overwhelmed with sadness and began to weep. A male student in a front row seat collapsed onto the floor. As it turned out, he had been in gross sin and resisting the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had come upon Mary. The Spirit was praying through Mary interceding for the brother. He got things corrected with the Lord.

Divisions causing hinderances...

We find the event known as *The Lord's Supper* in 1Corinthians 11:17-34.

In verse 18 it says, "...first of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there are divisions among you;..."

As you continue on to verses 27-34, the Word tells us that someone who is causing a schism and then takes the communion of *the Lord's Supper* is partaking irreverently (impertinent, godless).

The Word says you can prevent that by judging your own heart, by the *logos* and the *rhema*; through the Bible and the Holy Spirit.

This lesson of the Scriptures was placed in the Bible just before chapters 12-14 of 1Corinthians; the instructions for operating in the *gifts of the Spirit*.

No heart searching, no unity. No unity, no Spirit. No Spirit, no gifts.

Keep aware of your shortcomings and tendencies toward sin, that they do not affect the presence of the Spirit and the prophetic gifts. This is a major reason why we do not see the gifts of the Spirit functioning, or function without error.

Filled, led, and walking in the Spirit...

Galatians 5:16 and 17 say, "This I say then, walk in the Spirit [to make one's way], and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

For the flesh desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you would not do the things that you would otherwise do.”

You must first be *filled with the Spirit*, and then you can be *led by the Spirit*, and continuous leading becomes *walking in the Spirit*.

Your shortcomings and tendencies toward sin will fade away!

Identifies himself...

A true prophet identifies himself with the believer(s) before God, not above or aloof from their sin. “Lord, we have sinned and are a stiff-necked people. We follow our own ideas and do not seek you first for your direction.”

Instead of, “Lord, those people at church just will not listen. They have their own ideas and don’t care what you think.”

Prophecy building...

Sometimes a prophecy has to grow.

If you are asking the Spirit about timing for the delivery of a prophecy that He gave you to give, He may tell you “not yet” because the prophecy is not complete and will be added to by Him over time. It needs to grow.

Now, this could be during the course of a service, or days, maybe months later.

A partial word...

On rare occasions, when you are advanced in your prophetic gifting, the Holy Spirit may tell you not to give the complete prophecy that you have.

You know the complete prophecy, but are to give only a piece of it. The Spirit has His reasons and is not obligated to tell you.

It may be that the recipient would not be receptive to hear all of it. Maybe, certain events need to occur in the person’s life first. The Lord may have you or someone else complete it in the future.

A leader should expect prophetic knowledge...

Leaders should expect to receive prophetic knowledge about the spiritual health of those he, or she, are caring for.

This applies not only to pastors and youth leaders, but for all leaders in the Body of Christ.

Youth group leaders also need this, and business owners, foremen, corporals through to generals, and also parents and spouses.

As a business owner, or a foreman on the job, a military leader of any rank, and of course as parents or a spouse, we need to pray for those we lead and influence, and to do it as lead by the Holy Spirit; and to expect and pray for leading from the Holy Spirit.

Prophecy, weeping, and slain-in-the-Spirit...

On an occasion while I was preaching, the Spirit told me to stop speaking. He said to approach a certain woman in the congregation and that I would prophesy over her.

As I approached her, I started prophesying, but before I had reached her side, the presence of the Spirit overwhelmed me. I collapsed. I fell toward her with a hand outstretched to her.

When my hand touched her, she burst into weeping, as did I. Through the Holy Spirit's intercessory tears, I completed the prophecy, a word of comfort.

Just a few things you might prophesy about.

Transportation

Jesus knew where to get a ride. Let's look at Matthew 21:2.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them to me."

Jesus had prophetic knowledge that a donkeys colt would be waiting for Him.

I had been given a prophecy about myself and four others were to go to the Caribbean. The Lord provided the air flight money just three weeks before the trip, which was to occur during the peak tourist season. He provided five seats on the same jet, all next to one another.

Prophecy is not a substitute...

Prophecy is not a substitute for common sense or natural judgment. You do not need a prophecy to tell you to drive on the proper side of the road; the proper side according to the driving laws of your home country. The Bible provides us with the fundamental foundational commands to guide us in life. For example, you would not need a prophecy to tell you not to steal.

My friend David and his companion were driving on a mountain road with many blind corners. David suddenly received a compelling prophecy to switch sides of the road upon one of those corners.

David's companion, the driver, quickly changed lanes. As he did, a large truck came around the corner on the truck's wrong side of the road, David's legal side. If David had not known and responded to the prophetic word, they would have been killed.

A word of correction...

A corrective prophecy should cost you; it should hurt. You should feel the Father's heart for a contrary child. You should feel no satisfaction in pointing out their falling, failure, or backslidden state. The Father's heart would be hurt, sadden, or disappointed. If you are walking in the Spirit, motivated by love, then you should be feeling the same.

[2Cor. 5:18] "... God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

[2Cor. 5:19] "that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. "

Job Placement

My wife and I were driving down the road. My wife spoke up as we passed a particular business, saying that the Spirit just told her that she would be working there in the future; my wife already had a job. As she told me this, the Spirit confirmed that word through me. We did not share with anyone what the Lord had said. I received a phone call one month later from someone who worked at that business. I did not know that she worked there. She asked me if my wife would be interested in interviewing for a job. In the fullness of time, my wife had this new job.

Business Ventures and Ministries

You should not start or run a business or ministry without prophetic guidance. The Bible does not teach that every believer is to start a business or formal ministry. It does tell you to work for the provisions needed in life. It also says that we are to spread the gospel to all. Those are general, foundational, guidelines found in the Word. But, creating a business or ministry needs specific direction from the Lord, which the Lord often provides through prophecy.

It is common though for Christians who believe in 'hearing and obeying' by the Spirit, to start a ministry without true Spirit guidance, and then ask Christians to pray for the success of that ministry.

Being filled with the Spirit, and even functioning in the gifts of the Spirit, does not make someone led of the Spirit. To be led of the Spirit, you must first hear from the Lord and then obey Him. Deciding in your own mind to create a ministry around good-works and then expecting Christians and God to support it is sin.

Encouragement

I had a prophecy for someone. The Lord told me to call her on the phone to tell her. It was that the Lord had delivered her from smoking. She had just finished a prayer, in tears, about not being able to quit smoking cigarettes.

Baby Names

The Spirit had prophesied to both my wife I the name for our first child, Josiah. We presumed that the baby would be a boy; wrong, born a girl. I was at a bible college at the time, and students, staff, and some faculty were giving me a hard time saying, "You cannot name a girl with a boy's name".

There was a lot of pressure. I said, "How can we ask God for a name, and then tell Him that it is not acceptable?" A leader then said, "Then she will need the grace of the Lord."

I called a renowned Greek/Hebrew scholar, Gustav Hoyer, and told him my problem. He said that the name Josiah is both masculine and feminine, but had only been used in the Old Testament only as a boy's name.

I went to the hospital to see my wife and child. She said that she had been pressured by the staff to provide them with a name. She told them Josiah Jessica. Jessica was also the name that came to my spirit for the middle name. I then asked my wife if she knew what Jessica meant. We both did not know. Upon searching, I learned that Jessica means *the grace of the Lord*.

Pregnancies

I have thankfully been correct each time I spoke a prophecy about someone being pregnant. I owe that to minding my own business, and only prophesying when He makes me.

I have even had the blessing of prophesying about pregnancy for two of my own grandchildren.
