

Introduction

The reason for this manual is that we wanted to put together a simple and concise document that could be used for training in our church, Isaiah 61 Ministry Center. God has called Isaiah 61 Ministry Center to be a training church, not in theory only, but in hands-on training. Gary Wilson, Apostle of Isaiah 61 Ministry Center, came out of the business world. He was an excellent mentor and trainer. He would take his people through the preparation of sales presentations, showing them what to do and how to do it. Then he would allow them to do presentations, with his help and direction. Finally, they were ready to go it alone, first with moderate and then minimal supervision. Gary had many excellent salespeople who went on to become executives of corporations and owners of their own businesses.

This is the philosophy we have at Isaiah 61 Ministry Center. We believe that people can learn ministry by observing seasoned ministers, by being allowed to minister under direction and supervision and by having some responsibility of their own. In time, these people will become mature and competent ministers and can be sent out or used to train others new to ministry.

Prophetic ministry is so very important to the church today. We are on the brink of God's end-time harvest. This move of God will bring multitudes into the Kingdom of God. It will be a prophetic movement and so there is a need for many, many mature and trained up prophets, prophetic ministers and prophetic believers.

We have seen many problems and abuses in the prophetic ministry in the time we have been allowed to serve Jesus in ministry. People seem to have a lot more zeal than wisdom. People who themselves need much healing and deliverance are hurting people through prophetic ministry. Usually this is unintentional, but it has caused some to be shipwrecked. We believe that the church can do a better job in training people up in the prophetic. This is our goal and we pray for the grace and favor of God to assist us as we endeavor to do the best we can in training up competent ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Gary & Jean Wilson
Isaiah 61 Ministry Center

Chapter 1: The Fivefold Ministry Gifts

God is not the author of confusion and He desires that His church operate in order and peace. (1Corinthians 14:33) Therefore, He sets forth leadership for each local church:

And He gave Himself some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12.

These are referred to as fivefold ministry gifts or offices of ministry. Each of these fivefold ministries are an extension of Jesus Christ. They are not spiritual gifts. They come directly from Jesus, the head of the Church.

In the past century, God has been restoring each of these offices to the church. Pastors have been in place for some time, starting with the Protestant Reformation. Teachers and evangelists were restored during the mid-1900s. The office of the prophet was restored after this, around the 1980's. Finally, the apostle was restored just before the turn of the century, in the 1990's. God has been setting things back in order in His church in preparation for His end-time revival. Each office is essential for the proper functioning of the church.

The Apostle

The Greek for apostle is *apostolos* and is translated as *a messenger* or *one that is sent*. This means that God specifically gives apostles assignments and "sends" them out empowered to complete the assignment.

The Apostles Paul and Barnabas were "sent out" from Antioch:

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then having fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them, and sent them away. So being sent by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Acts 13:1-3

One of the primary callings of the apostle is to plant churches. Much of Apostle Paul's work involved evangelizing an area and then starting a church, which he then oversaw and managed. As part of this mandate, the apostle places other fivefold ministers in these churches that he plants to carry on the work of the church. So, the apostle puts together his team of prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, as God directs him for each church.

The apostle is considered the leader or the head of the church. (In these times, he is probably also referred to as the pastor or senior pastor) This is not to state that the apostle is somehow more important than anyone else, but that he is called by God to be in charge. God is a God of authority and He expects each of us to submit to authority.

As God's set leader of the church, authority vests in the apostle and flows down from there to the other fivefold ministry offices. From there it flows to the other leaders and ministers in the church. The apostle receives direct revelation from God on vision for the church. As the oil flowed from the head of Aaron and down his beard, so the revelation from God flows from the apostle to the others set in the church. Psalm 133:2

The Prophet

The prophet is the second listed in the fivefold ministry offices. Prophets, like the other fivefold ministers, are called and set by God; they are not set by man. God said to Jeremiah:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah 1:5

The prophet is a special mouthpiece for God. He has been gifted to hear God and communicate God's mind to the church. God gives revelation regarding His plans, purposes and strategies to the prophet.

Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Amos 3:7

God reveals by revelation His mysteries to the apostle and prophets. Ephesians 3:1-5
So, the prophet works in conjunction with the apostle to lay the proper foundation for the church.

Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on

the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. Ephesians 2:20

We will talk more about the ministry of the prophet in the chapters to follow.

The Evangelist

The evangelist's primary calling is to bring the lost into the Kingdom of God. The evangelist has a passion to preach about Jesus and bring people to salvation. In order to fulfill this assignment, God bestows on the evangelist supernatural power to perform miracles, healings and other signs to the unbeliever. The ministry of the evangelist is explosive with God's power anointing and brings great change and joy to those who come in contact with him.

Then Philip went down to a city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.
Acts 8:5-8

The ministry of the evangelist is part of the church, but much of what he does is outside the church walls. Evangelists are not only those we see with big ministries on television. Many who are called by God as evangelists will minister in their local communities, neighborhoods and places of work. God needs evangelists everywhere, as they are the ministers who most effectively bring the lost to salvation.

The Pastor

The office of pastor is a part of the fivefold ministry and so pastors are called and set by God. Those who are in the office of pastor without God's calling have acted out of order. There are a number of people who are pastors of churches whom God has not called. This has caused many problems for the church. If you are called by God to be a fivefold minister, then God will gift you and give you grace for the task. If you have not been called by God, then you will have to complete the assignment on your own gifts and talents. And, this is not a good place to be.

The pastor is called to be a shepherd of the flock (the members of the local church body). The pastor carries supernatural love and compassion for the people of God. The heart of the pastor is to love and care for the members of the church. The ministry of the pastor is to care for those who are sick and hurting. Consequently, pastors carry an anointing for healing and deliverance. They also have an evangelistic anointing to bring in the lost and then to love and nurture them.

A person called as pastor is not necessarily called to lead a church, although he might be. We tend to call all of the men and women who lead churches, pastor. In reality, some are not called to the office of pastor; they are apostles, prophets, or teachers. Some are pastors, some are not. Do not confuse the title, pastor, with the calling to the fivefold ministry office of pastor.

Teacher

The fivefold ministry office of teacher is part of the apostolic team set by God to lead the church. The office of teacher is more than someone who leads Sunday school or who facilitates a Bible study. The teacher is gifted by God to take the revelation received by the apostle and prophet and communicate it in a way that all in the church will understand. The teacher is a divine communicator. The prophet receives much revelation from God, but he is not necessarily a good communicator. In fact, he may not really even understand the meaning of all that he hears from God. The teacher is anointed to understand and communicate this understanding to the people.

This is not to state that the teacher does not receive revelation from God on his own. He often will. However, the revelation received by the teacher will be consistent with the vision and revelation received by the apostles and prophets. They work together as a team.

All fivefold ministries are vital to the proper operation of the church. Without these ministries in place, it is very difficult, if not impossible, for the church to fulfill its assignment in the Kingdom of God. All of these ministries work together for the common goal of building up the church and advancing the Kingdom of God. This prophetic training manual will consider only the ministry of the prophet, and leave the others for another study.

Chapter 2: What is Prophecy?

Prophecy is Divine Revelation from God

Prophecy is God communicating His thoughts and intentions to man. It is the special ability given by God to some believers to receive and communicate a message from Him through a divinely anointed utterance.

A prophetic word must be delivered with the right spirit and proper timing to be most effective. It is important to remember that prophecy is only a part of God's thoughts on a matter at a given time. It is not the whole package; it is only a portion of God's mind and will for us at a particular time.

When we think about a word from God, we must think of two different ways that God communicates to us:

- **The first way is called Logos.**

Logos is the written word of God. This is your Bible, God's word to us. The Bible is prophecy because it was divinely revealed to men by God.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible is the ultimate standard of all truth. Everything and everyone must be measured against the truth of the written word of God.

- **The second way is called Rhema.**

Rhema is a word from the Holy Spirit that is consistent with the written word of God. A rhema word brings life, power and faith. A rhema word is a precise word from God for a specific person, or group of people, for a specific situation. When we speak a prophetic word, we are speaking forth a rhema word. It is not the written word of God, but it is a word from God, that will always be consistent with the written word.

A prophetic word may be foretelling. Foretelling means to speak about the future. An example of this is in the book of Acts.

And in those days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul. Acts 11:27-30

Agabus was given a divine revelation about a future event – that there would be a worldwide famine. This was advance notice from God to His people to make them prepared. Notice that a collection for relief was taken up in response to the prophetic word.

A prophetic word may be forthtelling. Forthtelling means speaking forth the truth of God. This word calls into being those things that are not, as though they were.

God gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did. Romans 4:17

So, this type of prophetic word, when given, may cause the future. An example of this is Mary, receiving a prophetic word from the angel, Gabriel:

And having come in, the angel said to her (Mary), “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women. “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord will give Him the throne of His father David. Then Mary said, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:28, 31-32, 35, 38.

Here, Gabriel was not foretelling the future. He was speaking forth the future, causing the event to happen. A prophetic word can literally cause something to happen in the life of the person receiving the word.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

For instance, a prophet may prophecy to someone that the disease you suffer from will be healed and the next time you go to the doctor he will find no evidence of the disease. This word, if received and believed by the hearer, will literally move the heavens in order to make it come to pass.

In the case of Mary, the prophetic word about her giving birth to Jesus was also conditional; she had to receive it and believe it. Notice later in the first Chapter of Luke, Elizabeth prophesied over Mary:

Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord. Luke 1:45

Prophecy has 3 components:

1. Revelation – This is the divine word that comes from the prophet or prophetic minister. It is the word from God that is spoken forth. This is the rhema word.
2. Interpretation – This is the meaning of the word that was given. This may or may not come from the prophet or prophetic minister. The minister may only have the revelation. This is very common. Many times, we must seek the Holy Spirit ourselves to interpret the word that was given to us.
3. Application – This is the action portion of the prophecy. What do we do with this word? How do we respond? What action, if any, do we take? You need to be in prayer with God to determine what action to take. It would also be a good idea to consult with your pastor and ask him to help you determine what course of action you should take to walk out the prophetic word in your life.

The Purpose of Prophetic Ministry

The purpose of prophecy is to edify, exhort and comfort the hearer of the prophetic message. Prophetic words build up a person or a church, they do not tear down. True prophets bring edification to the church body; they do not bring division, destruction or

condemnation. A prophetic message, even if it brings correction, will bring edification and comfort. It will not be negative and judgmental.

Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him. However, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

1 Corinthians 14:1-3

- A prophetic word always makes a person better off, not worse. If God gives a prophet or prophetic minister a word about a problem or sin issue in someone's life, God will also give them the solution or answer to the problem. Prophecy is not just to point out a person's problems or defects. Really, people already know what is wrong with them. Prophecy makes a way out for them, a way to a better life. For instance, a prophetic word can provide revelation concerning a stronghold that is hindering a person or church. It will then also include the strategy for victory.
- Prophecy gives individuals and churches encouragement and perseverance to hold out during times of persecution, trouble or hardship. God is able to give a word of comfort and encouragement that speaks life right into the spirit of the person that gives them the strength, faith and endurance to hold fast.
- Prophecy discloses the secrets of the heart, which causes the person to worship God. See 1 Corinthians 14:24-25. Prophecy will always cause you to draw closer to God. It will never draw you away from God.
- Revelation is given by prophecy to the church so it can fulfill its unique call. Each local church has a unique destiny and purpose. Prophecy is used to release, impart and activate churches into their ministries and callings.
- Each person also has a unique destiny and purpose. Prophecy is used for impartation and activation of gifts, callings, anointings, and blessings to individuals.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery. 1 Timothy 4:14

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established. Romans 1:11

- Prophecy calls people into their destinies, purposes and callings. An example of this is when the prophets and teachers at Antioch were directed by God to separate from them Paul and Barnabas, lay hands on them and send them out for the work they were called to do. See Acts 13:1-3

In 1 Samuel 10 we read about the prophet Samuel anointing Saul, and prophesying over him that he would be the first king of Israel:

As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to go on ahead of us." And he went on. "But you stand here awhile, that I may announce to you the word of the Lord." 1 Samuel 9:27

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his (Saul's) head and kissed him and said, "Is it not because the Lord has anointed you commander over His inheritance?" 1 Samuel 10:1

"Then the Spirit of the Lord will come upon you, and you will prophecy with them and be turned into another man." 1 Samuel 10:6

And so it was, when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, that God gave *him a new heart, and all those signs came to pass that day.* 1 Samuel 10: 9

When you receive a word of prophecy, God has spoken to you and it is established in the spiritual realm. The word, if we receive it, becomes part of our spirit. And that word carries with it the power to bring it to pass, to make it happen.

What Prophecy is Not

- Prophecy is not to tell us what to do with every detail of our lives. God gives us divine knowledge for those areas where our abilities and natural knowledge are insufficient. We do not need God's mind to tell us what to wear today or what to eat for breakfast. We can figure this out on our own. God gives us a lot of common sense and wisdom that can be used for many day to day details and decisions. We need to base our lives on the word of

God and the will of God, but we do not need permission or a word of God for every little detail of our lives. This can be a sign of immaturity.

- Prophecy is not a word of wisdom or word of knowledge, even though they often operate together. Prophecy, word of wisdom and word of knowledge are all different spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12.

A word of knowledge is revelation from God pertaining to persons, places, events and situations - past and present. It is factual information that cannot be known by natural means, but can only be known by divine revelation from God.

A word of wisdom is revelation from God pertaining to the present or the future. It is a small part of God's wisdom for a situation or a person. God's wisdom is not earthly, human wisdom. It is the mind of God and it is supernatural wisdom that cannot be obtained by natural means.

A prophetic message, which edifies, exhorts and comforts, may contain a word of knowledge and/or a word of wisdom:

For example – a word to a person that says, "The hurt you received from the abuse you received at the hands of your father (word of knowledge), God wants to heal that now. If you forgive your father, God will erase the pain that has been in your heart all these years. As I lay hands on you, you will feel God's love healing your heart and you will never be the same again (prophetic word of comfort and encouragement). God also says to you to start praying for your father because these prayers will cause him come to the Lord before the end of the year (word of wisdom).

Many times we label a word of knowledge or word of wisdom as prophecy. The label is not all that important as long as we know it is the Holy Spirit operating through a human vessel to bring a divine revelation of the mind of God to His people. If we make ourselves available to be used by God, the Holy Spirit will flow in us to give us a word for others that will literally change their lives.

Chapter 3: Hearing from God

The first thing to understand is that God does speak to us. Jesus said:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them and they follow me. John 10:27

So, if you are a sheep, which is a follower of Jesus, then you can hear his voice. We should all be able to hear God's voice and give a prophetic word.

For you can all prophecy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 1 Corinthians 14:31

The key is relationship – a deep and personal relationship with God:

I (Jesus) am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me will bear much fruit, for without me you can do nothing. John 15:5

In order to have a good relationship with God, we need to be able to talk with Him. We do not want a one-way conversation, where we do all the talking. We need to hear what God has to say. In order to do this, we must understand that God does not talk to us on a human level; He talks to us spirit to spirit. God speaks to our spirit, not our emotions or mind. If you are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, you should seek this now. You will be able to tune into the spiritual better if you are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

When we hear a voice it is from one of three sources:

God – the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit is the voice of God. He speaks to us and tells us whatever the Father speaks to Him for us.

However, when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak and He will tell you of things to come. John 16:13

All true prophecy is spoken by the Holy Spirit.

No true prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but of men moved by the Holy Spirit to speak from God. 2 Peter 1:21

Our soul:

We can hear our own thoughts and emotions and sometimes mistake it for God.

Thus says the Lord of Hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophecy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord." Jeremiah 23:16

Evil spirits:

They can appear as angels of light, but they speak lies. Evil spirits may mix some truth and even some Scripture when they speak. This is done to deceive and is quite effective against people who are not well grounded in God's word.

So we are told to test the spirits.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit): Every spirit that confesses that Jesus has come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus came in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is already in the world. 1 John 4:1-3

Part of the maturing process as a Christian is discerning whose voice is speaking. This is why we need to practice prophesying, so we learn when we are hearing God's voice, ourselves or demons. I believe that the most common mistake is hearing our own thoughts, mistaking them for the voice of the Holy Spirit. Yes, demons will deceive at times, but more commonly, it is something we hear from our own mind or emotions that comes forth in error.

Ways In Which God Communicates

Let us now look at the different avenues God uses to speak to us:

▪ A still small voice.

1 Kings 19:11-13

It is not a booming voice shouting in our ear. It is not a rushing wind coming forth to usher in God's message. Don't we wish it were so obvious? No, God usually speaks much more

subtly and quietly. It usually comes as a small or faint voice in our spirit, a thought, an impression or sense of something that God is saying. This is the still, small voice.

This is not to say that God will not speak in an audible voice. He can and does at times. It is just that His voice usually is heard as a quite whisper in our spirit.

▪ **Impressions**

This is like spiritual discernment. It is more than a “feeling”. It is not an emotion because it comes from our spirit, not our soul. It is a very strong sense about something. We might call it “intuition”, but it would be better described as spiritual intuition or discernment.

▪ **A sense of peace**

When we are deciding on a course of action, we sometimes have a strong sense of peace in our spirit that God has spoken and given us the correct course of action.

▪ **The word of God**

God can take us to a certain Scripture verse to show us something. He may highlight a verse as you are reading. He can impress you with something new about a verse you never saw before. He can communicate wisdom for your situation as you are reading the Scriptures.

▪ **Outside sources**

God will use many things to get a word to you. He can point your attention to a billboard. He can talk to you through a movie or TV show. He can use other people to show you or tell you something. He can use your circumstances to speak to you. God will open doors and close doors, in this way communicating His will for you.

▪ **Visions**

Visions in your mind’s eye – this is like an impression in your mind’s eye, a picture of something that you do not see with your eyes, but with your imagination, so to speak. If I tell you to picture a double cheeseburger, you can see it in your mind’s eye. This is a bit like what a vision would look like.

Open vision – this is something we see with our own eyes. Like a movie being played out before our eyes. You can have this with your eyes closed or open.

Trances – we are taken into the spiritual realm and see something like a vision. We are usually unaware of our surroundings. It is not like watching the movie; it is like becoming part of the movie. Acts 10:9-11

- **Dreams**

God uses dreams to speak to us. Dreams are full of symbolism, mystery and imagery. Dream interpretation is a full study on its own. But suffice it to say, we need to be open to hear from God in our dreams.

Hear now My words: “If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make myself known to him in a vision, I speak to him in a dream”. Numbers 12:6

- **Bodily sensations, pains and feelings**

The prophetic minister might feel pain or other sensation in a certain part of his body. In this way, God is communicating that He is going to heal someone of an infirmity or problem in that area of their body. The minister speaks it out and the healing takes place.

God speaks in many different ways because He wants us to hear Him. But do not expect God to speak to you in the same way all of the time. Just when you get used to hearing Him in a certain way, He likes to change it up, and use a new way to communicate. This is because God does not want our relationships to become routine. God wants us to always be seeking Him and drawing closer to Him. He will use different avenues of communication to do this.

Chapter 4: Channels of Prophecy

God uses a number of means by which He communicates a prophetic word to His people.

Prophets

In Chapter One we introduced the office of the prophet, one of the fivefold ministry offices in the church. The ministry of the prophet (and apostle) is a foundational gift. Some of the duties of the prophet are:

Build up the church and prepare the church for the coming of Jesus. This includes purifying the church and bringing it into perfection. The church is made up of believers, and so to purify and perfect the church means to purify and perfect the believers. The prophet helps to mature the believers in their walk with the Lord. He also ministers guidance, correction, instruction, exhortation and judgment to the church and individuals.

Prophets are given insight into God's plans and purposes for the church and strategies to get there. For example, a church may be given an assignment to evangelize a certain neighborhood. The prophet will get the revelation about this assignment and the means by which to accomplish it successfully.

Prophets are given revelation into the strategies of the enemy to come against the church. Wisdom may also be given to the prophet on how to handle the attack. Other times, the wisdom is given to the apostle or pastor of the church. But God will not just give information on the enemy's strategy; He will also reveal what the church should do about it.

Prophets are able to discern the spiritual climate of a church and the issues being faced now or in the future. He may also be given wisdom in dealing with such issues. There is a breaker anointing that prophets operate in. This means that a key of revelation is given that unlocks places of hindrances and breaks yokes of bondage. Churches and individuals receive great breakthrough when they receive this kind of revelation.

God will speak through His prophets before He does anything of great consequence in the world. For God said in Amos 3:7 - I do nothing without first telling my prophets.

Another important part of the prophet's duties are to activate ministries and spiritual gifts through prophecy and the laying on of hands. The prophet will prophesy to the person their gifts and callings. These prophetic words impart, birth and activate those gifts or

ministries into the person. The person is actually launched spiritually into the gifts and ministries because the prophetic words are imbued with power and authority.

Prophetic Preaching

Preaching normally speaks about Biblical truths that have been researched and studied ahead of time. Prophetic preaching is preaching by divine inspiration or revelation. The words are directly from God and exactly what God wants to tell that church at the moment.

This does not mean the entire message is prophetic preaching. Many times, a pastor or preacher has prepared a message for the church and in the process of giving it, he receives revelation from God. The revelation, or prophetic word, is then given as part of the message. Again, if it is a prophetic word, it will edify, comfort and exhort God's people.

Gift of Prophecy

This is one of the nine gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-10:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant . . . for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, *to another prophecy*, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Prophecy is to be earnestly desired and sought after because it edifies the whole church. 1 Corinthians 14:4

The spiritual gift of prophecy is not the same as being a prophet. The ministry of the prophet is an extension of Jesus Christ, who was an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. The prophet does more than prophecy, as stated above. The prophet is one of the ministers whose gifting builds up and perfects the church.

The gift of prophecy is a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to whomever He desires for the edification, comfort and exhortation of the church.

One and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:11

You do not have to be a prophet to flow in the spiritual gift of prophecy. We should all make ourselves available to the Holy Spirit to be used to give a prophetic word under the gift of prophecy.

Spirit of Prophecy

The Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. Rev 19:10

The Spirit of Prophecy is different from the office of a prophet and the spiritual gift of prophecy. It is an anointing from Jesus that arises in a believer that brings forth a prophetic word. We can exercise our faith to prophesy by the Spirit of Prophecy.

Let us prophesy according to the proportion of our faith. Romans 12:6

Many times the Spirit of Prophecy will manifest during an anointed worship service. Also, when many prophets are assembled together, the Spirit of Prophecy may begin to flow. At these moments, people who have never prophesied will feel the unction to prophesy.

When they had come there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him (Saul); then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, "What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

1 Samuel 10:10-11

Prophetic Presbytery

This consists of apostles, prophets and teachers who are part of a team setting those who have been called into the fivefold ministry. Ordination into a ministry calling is done by the presbytery. The person receives prophetic activation and impartation to launch them into the ministry God has set before him.

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy, with the laying on of hands of the presbytery. 1 Timothy 4:14

Some Other Terminology

Prophetic Anointing: If you have a prophetic anointing, you are not necessarily a prophet. You have an anointing to minister prophetically, with revelation from God. It means God has imparted into you a special anointing to be used, as He decides, to minister in the prophetic realm to his people.

Prophetic Intercession: Is intercession/prayer that is directed by the Holy Spirit. As we pray and intercede for others, the Holy Spirit begins to direct our prayers. He will tell us for whom to pray and what to pray. This is powerful because we are praying God's heart and mind for the moment and are declaring God's will over situations and persons.

Prophetic Praise and Worship: Praise and worship in obedience to direction from God that will many times usher in a Spirit of Prophecy.

Prophetic Song: A song given by divine revelation from God, many times spontaneous, rather than planned in advance. The song will be a message from God for the group assembled. God often uses worship leaders to bring forth a prophetic song. However, anyone who makes themselves available can be used to sing a prophetic song.

Prophetic Dance: Dancing, using flags, banners and other such things as the Holy Spirit directs during a worship service.

Calling: This would be our destiny in ministry for God. God calls some to the fivefold ministry. For example, Paul was called by God to be an apostle.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God.

1 Corinthians 1:1

You can be called, but refuse to answer and fulfill your call. Furthermore, if you answer the call of God, this still means you have to submit to study, training and mentoring before you will fulfill your call.

Gifting: God gives gifts to believers to build up the church.

Anointing: Is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will activate the gifts.

Chapter 5: Personal Prophecy

Personal prophecy is a prophetic word to a certain person, family or group of people. It is specific information or direction on a specific matter. It is a portion or part of the mind of God for that person, at that time, for that certain matter. It is a small insight into God's will for our lives.

Personal prophecy must not be a substitute for us listening to God for ourselves. We can all hear God and should develop an intimate relationship with Him so that we hear His voice, know His voice and respond in obedience.

Because personal prophecy is just a portion of God's insight for a person, personal prophecy is progressive. This means it comes to pass in phases, over weeks, months and even years.

Personal prophecy is also conditional. This means the prophetic word will come to pass only if certain conditions are met. In order for the prophetic word to manifest we must first accept the word. Then we need to confess the word. If God said it will be, it will be. But it will be in God's timing. Start believing the word. Adjust your life accordingly. Obey the instructions you receive. If you do not get precise instructions to act upon, then continue in the way you were going and wait for God to give you the next step. If you get instructions, then you need to obey them.

If possible, it is good to record the personal prophecy. This way you can write it out and confess it and meditate on it. You can also go to war with it, so to speak. When it looks like the word will not come to pass, you decree and declare it and speak it into the spiritual realm. You speak it back to God and state your reliance on the word and that you will not lose faith.

Do not let the devil steal the word from you. He will certainly try. After you receive a prophetic word, things may get difficult and trouble may come. If you get upset and angry and get defeated, complaining and feeling sorry for yourself, you have fallen into the trap of the enemy. Your word will be hindered from manifestation.

Subjects of Personal Prophecy

A Person's Calling or Ministry:

This is a very common type of personal prophecy. These words take time to fulfill. Usually a prophetic word about your calling or ministry will take months or years or even many years

to manifest fully. The time depends a lot on us and how much we cooperate with God in getting prepared and trained up for our calling.

But the personal prophetic word does begin the process of your call and launches you into your training and activation. If you cooperate with God and submit to training and equipping, God will bring you into your destiny. A person will usually receive a number of prophetic words about his calling or ministry over the course of his lifetime.

Divine Healing:

This is a prophetic word given by divine revelation from God concerning a person's healing. If God says you will be healed, you will be healed. The prophet or prophetic minister is giving the mind and will of God for the person and their particular infirmity or disease. The minister is not simply declaring by faith in the Word that by His Stripes you are healed. The prophetic word of divine healing is a rhema word from God about the person's healing.

It is difficult to get an accurate rhema word for someone about healing when we have personal knowledge about the person and their needs. Our emotions tend to get in the way. Our desire for them to be healed may cloud our accuracy in hearing a pure word from God about them. It is much better for a prophet or prophetic minister who has no knowledge about the person and his issues to prophesy about healing.

Marriage and Romance:

God rarely puts people together for marriage by personal prophetic word. However, God will give confirmation that you are with the right person. If you get a word about who you should marry from a prophet, be very careful before taking action. You really must have a strong confirmation in your own spirit from God. Marriage is an area where a prophetic word should act only as a confirmation to what we have already heard from God.

Finances and Business:

God will use prophets to give businessmen direction about their business and finances. God may give a word concerning problems hindering the business or new goals or innovations for the business. God gives confirmation to the businessman before he undertakes a new venture or makes major decisions.

God may also prophesy to a person a word concerning financial breakthrough. Remember, all personal prophecy is conditional and so you must bring your life into agreement with God in order to see the word fulfilled. Your life and money managing habits must line up with the word of God. God is more interested in your character than your wealth and prosperity.

God will not prosper you if it will hinder your walk or derail your ministry or life in Jesus. In addition, the purpose of God sending prosperity is not for us to hoard it. It is to bless us and advance the Kingdom of God.

Also, as with all personal prophecy, prophetic words about finances may take time to come to pass. Things may get worse before they get better and we are called to persevere and not give up on the word.

Pregnancies:

God uses the prophetic word to bring forth life, sometimes literally human life. God uses the prophet to prophesy babies to those who have been unable to conceive. God will speak a word to that person that they will have a baby, and if they receive it in faith, the word brings forth life. These prophetic words are given by inspiration of God, not because we feel compassion for a person who is trying to have a baby and want to pray it over them. When God says it will be so, it will be so.

These are just some of the common areas of personal prophecy. Really, the sky is the limit. God is interested in our lives, our families, our jobs, our ministry, and everything we are going through. Therefore, you can expect to hear from God concerning your particular situations, desires, problems, etc.

Chapter 6: Activating and Moving in the Prophetic Realm

Now that we have some foundation set for prophetic ministry, it is time put into practice what we have learned. In this section we will have each of you hear a specific word from God and then speak it forth.

Activating the Prophetic

You need to have a safe place to practice prophecy. Isaiah 61 Ministry Center is a church that believes in allowing people to exercise and practice their gifts in a safe environment. No one ever gets good at anything without practice. In addition, no one ever gets good without making some mistakes. This is part of life. So, with that in mind, let's go at it and not be afraid to make a mistake. We will not condemn you and we will not embarrass you.

As stated earlier, activation of the prophetic is usually accomplished by the laying on of hands by the prophets and apostles in the local church. Here is a suggested prayer that you can pray now, asking God to activate the prophetic in your life:

Father God, I love your Word and I love your Son, Jesus Christ. I earnestly desire spiritual gifts and especially to prophesy. God, I desire to edify, exhort and comfort your church and your people. I ask you now to activate the gift of prophecy in my life and impart into me a prophetic unction and prophetic anointing. I pray for the wisdom to use this gift to bless your people. I pray this in Jesus' name.

Activating Your Spirit to Hear God

One of the most effective ways to move into the spiritual to hear the voice of God is to pray in the Spirit (pray in tongues). This is why we are so adamant here at Isaiah 61 about getting people baptized in the Holy Spirit. If you want to move in the supernatural and prophetic, you really must be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Begin to speak in tongues for 30 seconds to a minute or so. Try to clear your mind of clutter and focus on God, speaking in tongues. This will activate your faith and spiritual ears, to hear the Holy Spirit more clearly. Then, silently ask the Holy Spirit for a word for the person for whom you are to prophesy. Do not expect to get a long involved message from the Holy Spirit. You may only get a word or two. That is fine. This is how God usually starts. Do not despise small beginnings. One word from God is better than 100 from man anyway.

Now listen. Be quiet and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit. You are a believer in Jesus and you are filled with the Holy Spirit. This is all you need to hear God's voice and so have faith that you can and will hear from God.

Next, speak that word in faith. Speak forth the prophetic word that you believe God gave to you. Do not go into fear. Whatever you heard, just say it. If you feel you did not hear anything specific, begin to pray a general blessing and listen for direction from the Holy Spirit with a more specific word for the person you are praying for.

Finally, get an honest assessment from the person to whom you prophesied. Was the word on point? Did their spirit bear witness to it? Did they find it to be accurate for them?

Exercises in the Prophetic

At this point, your instructors will continue to activate you in the prophetic and take you through exercises to encourage you, build your faith, increase your ability to hear God and allow you to practice prophesying. We will do activation and exercises after each of the remaining lessons. This is a laboratory for ministry. We are not looking for perfection. We just want you to have some fun in hearing from God and in speaking it forth. This is not a time to be nervous, just excited as God is doing new and wonderful things with us. The more we use our gifts, the more competent we become and the more God can trust us to bless His people.

Words to the Wise

- It is not necessary to use religious jargon when prophesying. For instance, you do not need to say, "Thus says the Lord" or "The Lord God says to you". Simply say something like: Here is what I believe God said to me . . . , or I believe God is saying . . . Since God wants to communicate with us, He will speak to us in a manner that we can understand.
- Not every word we hear is to be shared. We must be sensitive to know God's mind on whether to give a word or hold it until a later time. Prophets and prophetic people hear many things, but God might not be ready to have that word spoken yet. If you are not sure whether to share something you heard, it is a good idea to take it to your pastor and ask his advice. Do not be in such a hurry to give a word that you neglect good counsel. Many mistakes can be avoided by taking our time and sharing with our pastors, especially when we are first getting started in moving in the prophetic.

- One area where we need to use great caution is prophesying a person's calling into the fivefold ministry. Timing is so important here. If you tell a very new Christian that he is a prophet and needs to walk in that call, you might derail his training. The new Christian is not ready to walk in the office of a prophet. They need much maturing, training and mentoring before they can operate in this call. An immature Christian who hears a word like this may become shipwrecked if they begin to move too soon. It is much better to prophesy to that person that he has a prophetic anointing and he should get trained up in it. It is wise to leave the prophesying of fivefold ministry offices to the apostles and prophets of that person's own church.

- There also is the matter of confidentiality and privacy. Wisdom tells us that some words should be given in private. Some things are meant to be given or dealt with in a private setting. Be careful about getting up in front of a group and speaking a personal prophecy to someone that could embarrass them. We must remember that the Holy Spirit is a sweet person, who never wants to embarrass or cause someone to wish they had not come to church. Ask God for wisdom on how to deliver the word. In many cases, all we need is common sense to know when something should be spoken privately. But remember, Isaiah 61 Ministry Center requires that we minister with at least two ministers present. This rule is also for prophetic ministry. Do not prophesy to a person without another minister present.

Any word you receive for the whole church body should be given to the apostle or pastor in private and he will then decide how to handle the word.

- A word of caution, sometimes we can discern a person's own desires and mistake it for God's will for them. This is part of the seasoning and maturing of a prophetic minister. When you are praying for a word for a person, ask God to shield you from that person's will and emotions and to only hear from God His mind and will for them.

- Another thing to watch for is taking the word beyond what God said. It is possible to have a word for someone and then as we are prophesying, to begin to speak things from our own heart. This can happen especially if we know the person to whom we are prophesying. Again, this is part of the seasoning and maturing process – To know when to start speaking and then when to stop, not adding anything extra.

The reason we lay out these words to the wise, is that we do not want you to make the same mistakes we have made ourselves and we have seen others make. As we go through the lessons, we will give you more examples and advice so that you can walk out your prophetic call with as few mistakes as possible.

Chapter 7: Judging Prophecy

When judging a prophetic word that is given we:

- Judge the message by its content and the motive of the prophet or minister.
- Judge the prophet or prophetic minister by his life and character.

Under the Old Covenant, in the Old Testament, if a prophetic word did not come to pass, the prophet was considered false. Moreover, God said that where a word drew people away from Him, it was false.

If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying "Let us go after other gods", which you have not known, "and let us serve them." You shall not listen to the words that prophet or dreamer of dreams . . . But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God.
Deuteronomy 13:1-2, 5

Under the New Covenant, we are told:

Let two or three prophets speak and let the others judge. 1 Corinthians 14:29

We are also told: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Under the Old Covenant, only prophets and a few others had the Holy Spirit, and only when the Spirit came upon them. The people did not have the Holy Spirit. They could not hear from God for themselves, they had to rely on the prophets. Thus, the only way to determine if the prophet was true and the prophecy correct, was if the word came to pass. Therefore, God demanded perfection.

This is no longer the case under the New Covenant. We no longer label a prophet false if a word does not come to pass. Under the New Covenant, all believers are given the Holy Spirit. We are therefore all fully equipped to hear from God ourselves and determine what is true and false.

Judging the Prophetic Word

Does the word line up with Scripture?

In other words, compare the prophecy to the written word of God, the Bible. Anything spoken contrary to God's word must be immediately rejected. God will never contradict His own written word. You can take this to the bank. For example, a word given to a person that they should divorce their wife because she does not support him in his ministry and marry the other woman who does, contradicts the word of God. It cannot be from God.

As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other Gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
Galatians 1:9

Does the word bring division or unity?

Will the word divide the church, marriage, relationship, etc. or bring it closer? God brings restoration and reconciliation to relationships. If the word brings strife and division, it tends to show it is not from God. God does not tear up, He builds up.

There is a caveat to this. When a prophetic word to a church points out a sin issue, spiritual problem or other issue in the church that needs to be dealt with, there may be those who disagree and fight against it. There may be those who even leave a church because of this type of prophetic word. This does not mean that the word is false. In the end, the result will be that the sin or spiritual issue is handled and peace returns. For example, in John 6:66 it states that after Jesus told his disciples they must eat his flesh and drink his blood, many of them left and followed him no more. This word at first brought division, but ultimately resulted in a group of unified men who became faithful disciples.

Does the word line up with God's character?

The character of God is found in Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law.

Does the prophetic word bring love, peace, joy, etc.? Or does it bring bitterness, strife, sadness, etc. If the word is contrary to God's character, then it is not from God.

Does the word bring life to the listener?

A word from the Holy Spirit brings life. It will not bring depression, heaviness, hopelessness or despair.

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I (Jesus) speak are Spirit, and they are life. John 6:63.

Does the word bring you closer to Jesus?

The Holy Spirit always glorifies and magnifies Jesus. Therefore, a prophetic word will always bring you closer to Jesus. If a word draws you away from Jesus it is not from God. On a more subtle note, if the word glorifies a person and tends to draw you to them more than draw you to Jesus, this is a warning sign that the word is not true.

When the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you of things to come. He will glorify Me (Jesus), for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. John 16:12-14

Does your spirit bear witness to the word?

This is a deep inner assurance, in our spirit, that the word is correct.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.
Romans 8:16

This is not an emotion. It goes deeper. You feel peace, joy, love, etc. deep in your spirit. This is compared to a negative witness, which would produce an uneasy, negative, nervous sensation in your spirit. Again, this is not a feeling or emotion. It is deeper, in the spirit.

If you get no witness, positive or negative, it is ok to do nothing. Wait and see. You can wait on taking action on the word until you get a confirmation from God. Very important matters should be subject to confirmation from 2 or 3 witnesses. See 2 Corinthians 13:1.

Does the word come to pass?

What is the tract record of accurate prophecies? If a prophet prophesies things that do not

come to pass, this is obviously a problem. However, not every word that does not come to pass is false. Sometimes prophets and prophetic ministers make mistakes. There are also issues of timing and meeting conditions for the prophecy to happen. However, continued prophetic words failing to manifest might make the current word suspect also.

Judging the Prophet or Prophetic Minister

Look at the prophet's ministry:

What are the fruits of the ministry?

Are people coming to know the Lord Jesus as a result of the ministry?

Are people being set free by the ministry?

Are lives changing for the better?

Are relationships being restored?

Is the ministry anointed?

Look at the prophet's personal character:

In judging whether to accept a prophetic word from a prophet or prophetic minister, you must look at their personal character. In 1 Timothy 3, Paul sets forth the qualities of elders and deacons. Their lives must be above reproach. They must have self-control, live wisely and have a good reputation. If this is true for deacons and elders, how much more so for a prophet of God?

True prophets' characters exhibit the fruit of the spirit - They are not arrogant and rebellious.

True prophets are honest and live lives of high moral character – This is what is meant by a life above reproach. If a prophet is engaged in dishonest behavior or is sexually immoral, they should be disregarded.

True prophets are submitted to authority - They are submitted to a church and under authority. They are not lone rangers roaming from place to place.

Look at the motives of the prophet:

The true motive must be love for God's people. It is not love of money, fame or accolades that inspires true prophets. True prophets are generous and care much more for God's people than they do for monetary gain. A person that will only prophesy for money should

be disregarded. A prophet or minister who intimidates and extorts money through prophecy should be disregarded. Also, beware of those whose motive is to bring themselves glory or advance their ministry above glorifying Jesus.

Look at the spiritual maturity of the prophet:

They are mature in their theology and doctrine. They have taken seriously their training up in the word of God and are sound in their knowledge and understanding of the Bible.

Look at the prophet's family life:

Their homes should be in Biblical order. Wives should be submitted to husbands. Husbands should love their wives as Jesus loves the church. The children are well taken care of and disciplined. The order of priority in the life of a minister is God first, then spouse, then children, then ministry. However, families do not have veto power over God's will and direction for a prophet or minister.

False Prophets

The devil is a master of counterfeit. So, where God has the true, the devil will have the false. Count on it. Because God does have true prophets and prophecies, we must therefore be on guard for false prophets and false prophecies.

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders, to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones.

Matthew 24:24

The word tells us how to recognize a false prophet:

Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. So every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you shall know them. Matthew 7:15-20

An incorrect word from a prophet does not make him a false prophet. Anyone can make a mistake. An incorrect prophecy is just that, incorrect. It does not fit the facts or situation. The person may have heard it wrong, or heard it correctly, but mixed in his own thoughts, resulting in a mixed message. This is common. We sometimes add things that have not come from God. For example:

When Paul was on his way to Jerusalem, several prophets prophesied to him trouble that would befall him when he got to Jerusalem. This was correct. However, they added to the prophetic word that Paul should not go to Jerusalem. Paul, believing that God had told him to go, ignored this part of the word and proceeded to Jerusalem. Quite possibly, the prophets, who knew Paul and loved him, mixed their own feelings and compassion for Paul in warning him not to go to Jerusalem. This did not make them false prophets or their word false. See Acts 21.

In addition, a word may seem incorrect when we receive it, but over the course of time, we come to understand it. Many prophetic words take time to come to pass.

As stated above, a prophet is judged to be true based on his character and ministry. A prophet might be immature and in need of training, thus making mistakes. This does not make him a false prophet, just one that needs maturing and training.

A person may be in need of healing and deliverance, with issues of bitterness, rejection, etc. This does not make him a false prophet. He just needs healing and deliverance, like most of the rest of us. However, one should be cautious of words received by a person with spiritual issues such as bitterness and rejection. Prophetic words are filtered through the prophet's spirit and so can become tainted with bitterness, judgment, anger, fear, rejection etc. We will go into this more in depth in a later chapter.

The Bible does not imply that false prophets cannot prophesy correctly or do not have power. To the contrary, the Bible says they will perform great signs and wonders. Matthew 24:24. And, they will prophesy and cast out demons in the name of Jesus. Matthew 7:22. The bad fruit that the false prophet bears is not a false gift, but an evil heart.

Basically, a false prophet's life, ministry and motives do not line up with the word of God. He appears to be a good sheep, but inside, he is really a ravenous wolf. He is an enemy of the sheep. For example, red flags or warning signs are:

- Operate out of wrong motives. True prophets prophesying out of love. False prophets prophesy out of other, wrong motives. Some examples of wrong motives are:

Selfish gain:

Prophecy for money.

Prophecy that promotes the prophet or his ministry.

Control:

They lead people to themselves instead of Jesus. They become the answer instead of pointing people to Jesus. True prophets have a great desire to help people hear God for themselves. False prophets want people to rely on them. They draw people to themselves. Some church splits are a result of false prophets. They have a way of attracting the young (in age or in the Lord) and hurting members of the church and drawing these people to themselves. Then they rally these folks to their side and against the leadership of the church. This causes strife, division, contention and sometimes church splits.

Domination & intimidation:

The false prophet may give words, orders or directions, with the caveat, "This is from the Lord", or "God told me". So in other words, you better not disagree with me – or you are disagreeing with God. In this way, they tend to bring fear and intimidation.

- Are not under submission.

False prophets are not subject to anyone. They do not like to listen to anyone. Beware of prophets who do not belong to a church and are not under the authority of a local church. False prophets have trouble living a life of submission under authority. They tend to be lone rangers, going from place to place looking for a church where they can take charge. They tend to have a rebellious spirit.

- Doctrine is incorrect

What they teach or preach is not in line with the Bible. Or they use just a few scriptures to back them up. Or take them out of context or without the rest of the word.

False Prophecies

1. A prophetic word may be false when it is given with a wrong motive. Here, the word may be true and correct, but the prophet's heart is not right:

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, "These men are servants of the most high God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her". And he came out that very hour. Acts 16:16-18

In this case, the word given by the servant girl was true. Paul and his companions were servants of God proclaiming the way to salvation. But her motives were wrong. She was interested in self-promotion, not in drawing people to Jesus. She also wanted to be a hindrance to Paul.

2. A prophetic word may be false when it is inconsistent with God's word or character. We discussed this above. All prophetic words must line up with God's word and His character.

If you receive a word of false prophecy, do not receive the words. Simply cancel them. You can pray something like, "In the name of Jesus I do not receive what was spoken over me, and I renounce and cancel it."

To conclude, you must look both at the nature of the prophetic word given and at the prophet or prophetic minister who has given the word. If either is suspect, it is wise to either disregard the word, or at least shelf it for the time being until further confirmation is received. We are not required to receive and act on a word just because someone says they are a prophet and tells us "*Thus saith the Lord*". Test all things and keep only what is true.

Chapter 8: Prophetic Protocol & Etiquette

Spiritual Authority

In order to discuss prophetic protocol and etiquette, we must first take a quick look at spiritual authority. God is a God of authority.

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Romans 13:1

There is a chain of command, so to speak, in the Kingdom of God, in the church and in families. God expects us to respect the authorities that are placed over us. We must understand that if we rebel against authority, we are actually rebelling against God. Submission to human authority reflects our submission to God's authority. Romans 13:2
The prophet and prophetic minister must therefore understand where they stand in the hierarchy of the church.

There is a head over each local church. That man might be referred to as the Apostle. He might also have the title of Elder or Overseer. Many churches today are led by men with the title of "pastor", whether this is really their calling or not. In this chapter we will refer to the head of the local church as Apostle. The Apostle is the final authority and is in charge of the operations of the church. The prophet, prophetic ministers and others operating the prophetic anointing must submit to the Apostle. The prophet is part of the team, but is not the leader. The ministers and believers are also part of the team, but they are not in charge. God places an Apostle in authority as head of each local church. If the prophet elevates himself over the head of the church, he is in rebellion:

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman he had married, for he had married an Ethiopian woman. So they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. Numbers 12:1-2

So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them and He departed. And the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. Numbers 12:9-10

We are not implying that God will treat you as He did Miriam if you rebel against authority. This lesson from the Old Testament is provided here as an illustration to show how serious God is about authority. If a person, whatever his calling, will not submit to authority, God cannot trust that person and will simply not promote him.

The challenge in any church is that the various fivefold ministers are quite different from one another, even though they are to be working in unity. Apostles, prophets and pastors are all part of the team, but their personalities are usually quite different. In Ephesians 1:17 Paul prays for the church of Ephesus to operate in the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus. Prophets function more in the realm of the spirit of revelation. Pastors function more in the realm of the spirit of wisdom. Apostles operate in both areas.

Revelation involves receiving or hearing the message or word from God. Wisdom involves how to minister or put into action the word received. Wisdom includes the timing, the manner, the place, the context, etc. In other words, the prophet receives the “what” and the Apostle determines the implementation: who, when, where, how, etc. Both revelation and wisdom are necessary. One without the other is lacking.

Protocol in Giving a Prophetic Word

It is the job of the prophet, the prophetic minister, or anyone receiving a prophetic word for the church to take that word to the head of the church, the Apostle. The Apostle then judges, interprets and strategizes with regard to that word. The prophet does not control the outcome. Give what you have received to the Apostle and leave it with him. It is then God’s job to deal with the Apostle. Do not become critical or defensive if he does not move the way you think is correct or fast enough.

There should be no control or manipulation in the church. Unfortunately, this can happen when prophets/ministers feel that the revelation they have received is not being handled properly by leadership. Prophets and prophetic people can become intimidating, domineering, manipulative and controlling. None of these please God.

True prophets and prophetic ministers submit to the leader of the church and publically affirm him. They cooperate with the vision of the church. They work with leadership, not against it.

A word from God is an awesome thing. It surely makes you want to jump up and shout when the Lord gives you a glimpse into what He has on His mind. However, we must remember as members of a church, that we cannot take matters into our own hands. God is a God of order and not confusion. 1 Corinthians 14:33

In the First book of Corinthians, Paul was trying to put some order into a church that was flowing wildly in the gifts of the spirit. The good news was that the gifts were flowing. The bad news was that it was wild and out of control. The Corinthians were formerly pagans who worshipped false gods. Worship in the pagan temples was often raucous and wild. Chaos was the order of the day. Paul was working to get the Corinthians to put their zeal for God into a package that was a bit more orderly, without pouring cold water on their flow in the Holy Spirit.

One of the points that Paul made to the Corinthians was:

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.
1 Corinthians 14:32-33

What Paul meant by this was that the Holy Spirit is a gentleman who does not impose His will on us. The Holy Spirit does not work against our own self-control. So, if a prophetic word drops in your spirit, it is under your control whether to speak it or not. If you feel compelled to speak and believe you cannot stop yourself, this is not God. This is some other spirit.

If someone says, I just had to give that word right then, God wanted it given and I could not stop it, it was not God speaking. God will not force you to speak. That is the realm of the demonic and the soulish realm of our own spirit that wants to be heard. In the midst of a church service, if you have a word, give the word to the Apostle and submit it to him to decide what to do. Then leave it at that and do not get your feelings hurt if the word is not permitted to go forth.

Protocol in Giving a Word of Personal Prophecy

Every church has its own rules with regard to prophetic messages. Many churches require certain training and equipping before allowing a person to give a prophetic word to another person. This is for the protection of both of the parties, the giver and the receiver. As you can imagine, much damage can be done by immature believers speaking erroneously what

they believe is a word from the Lord for another person. Therefore, it is very important to discuss these matters with the pastor of your church before you give out a prophetic word.

There is also the issue as to timing when we receive a prophetic word. You see, we may hear something from God, but it is not supposed to be spoken just yet. It is very important to have God's timing correct. It is just as important to have the timing correct as the contents of the message. We can hurt someone by giving them a word before it's time. They simply may not be ready for it.

So, why would God tell you or show you something that He does not want you to speak? God is always testing us and instructing us so that we grow up in the gifts He has given us. He will sometimes tell you something in order to see if you have matured enough to know when to speak the word. I have a saying, *you can always speak something, but you can't "un-speak" it.* I may err at times on being a bit too cautious, but I would rather come back and give a word, than try to take it back or correct it or pick up a mess that I made because I spoke out of time.

Prophetic ministry is awesome and can bring life where there is death, peace where there is turmoil and hope where there is despair. We simply need to know the rules and follow them. Then all will be edified and the church will advance.

Chapter 9: Advice For Prophets and Prophetic Ministers

Bitterness and Rejection

Many prophets and prophetic people have much need for healing of rejection and bitterness. This is actually true for most all Christians. When your spirit is tainted with bitterness, everything that flows from your spirit will be tainted. The same is true with rejection.

Many prophetic people begin to function in their prophetic gifting way before they develop the required maturity and wisdom to do so without problems. Consequently, they put themselves in the position to be corrected, rebuked and misunderstood. This causes much wounding and the need for healing and deliverance.

Sometimes prophetic people, who have wounds that have not been fully healed, will act out of that woundedness when dealing with others in the church. If the Apostle does not allow a word, or the word is not acted upon the way the prophet feels it should, he can become angry and hurt. Sometimes prophetic people strive for acceptance, approval and credibility, due to previous rejection. But the harder they try, the worse it usually is and the more rejection they suffer. This brings on more rejection and more bitterness. It is a vicious cycle.

One area where God uses prophets is judgment and correction. However, God will not use a prophet to proclaim judgment or correction unless he has been delivered and purged of those issues that give him a desire to pronounce judgment. Some people like to prophecy judgment and correction. They rather enjoy it because of their hurt, bitterness and rejection. If we are to judge, we must ourselves be judged – we must take an honest look at ourselves and allow God to remove and deliver us from all things displeasing to Him.

The motive for all ministers should be to be a servant of Jesus. Minister is really translated, “servant”. However, the spirit of rejection will compel us to desire and strive for position, attention and power. This is to compensate for a deep rooted sense of insecurity and inferiority. The root is rejection and must be eliminated as part of our maturing process. If we want to serve with humility, rejection must be eradicated.

We suggest that as a first step in preparing to move in prophetic ministry, that you make a commitment to go through the *Isaiah 61 Ministry Center Spiritual Healing & Deliverance* course. You will experience a great deal of healing and deliverance of a number of different

spiritual roots as a part of this course. You also will learn how the enemy works and be equipped to stand against these strategies in the future.

All Prophets and Prophetic Ministers and Believers Need Training

The Need for Biblical Balance:

Do not ignore Bible study and study of doctrine and other truths. The gift of prophecy is awesome and powerful. This can lead people to focus on this gift to the exclusion of everything else. They become imbalanced, always running to the prophetic. The prophetic ministry is just one of the ministries of Jesus Christ. We must be well-rounded ministers of the Word of God to be fully used by God. In addition, the written word (Bible) and the Spirit always agree. So if we are to be competent prophetic ministers, we need to know the written word.

Need for Training:

It is important to be trained in giving, receiving and judging prophecy and then assisting to train others. This will allow us to correctly hear from God and help others to do so. Many unnecessary problems will be avoided through proper training.

Need to Work with Others:

Prophets and prophetic ministers need to learn to function along with the other giftings. Prophets tend to feel strongly that they are primarily answerable to God. They want to speak everything they hear from God, and they err on the side of saying too much instead of too little. Their concern is they will miss speaking something God wanted them to speak. On the other hand, pastors also feel answerable to God, but this is tempered with the need to take the people into consideration. Pastors tend to err on the side of caution, not wanting to stray into an area where God has not yet authorized and which may cause more harm than good with the people. This can obviously lead to conflict. This is where the prophet and prophetic minister need wisdom in dealing with the others in the church. This is a matter of maturity and experience. Commit to and be faithful at Isaiah 61 Ministry Center or the church you attend and get the experience you need to be a competent minister for Jesus.

Need to Avoid Isolation:

Because prophets hear from God differently and perhaps more dramatically, than the other

giftings, they can have a tendency to be loners. This can be dangerous. Prophets, as well as all other ministers need to be a part of the church fellowship and be under authority and held accountable. The church is a team and if you cannot function in the team, God will have limited use for you.

Need to Avoid Pride:

Because the prophetic ministry is so awesome and powerful it can cause a person to become prideful. This can lead to rebellion and usurping authority in the church.

Need to Handle Persecution:

If you are able to receive support, praise, correction and persecution you will go far with God. You must have the ability to receive praise and support without going into pride and correction and persecution without going into bitterness and rejection. If you cannot do this, your growth and potential will not be reached. Deliverance and healing of spiritual issues are essential to functioning properly in prophetic ministry or any other ministry.

Need to Handle Family Pressures:

Family members have a way of either hindering our progress or pressuring us to move faster than what God has ordained. There is a need for wisdom in dealing with our families so that we can obey God, without alienating our families. Your pastor can help you in this area. He has walked through what you are walking through and can give you a lot of good advice in dealing with your ministry and your family.

Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed this brief introduction to the prophetic ministry. We are living in some very exciting times, when God is raising up His end-time army to bring in the final harvest. It is imperative that we do not delay in enlisting in the army and getting the training we need to accomplish what God has for us to do. Part of this training involves moving in the prophetic realm. We are happy that you are serious enough about the call on your life to have participated in this training course.

May we politely suggest that your training is not over? Keep working with the ministers in Isaiah 61 Ministry Center, or wherever you attend church, to perfect your giftings. You should also seek to get additional training, especially if you believe you have a calling as a prophet or prophetic minister. If you are able to attend the prophetic training at Christian International Ministry in Santa Rosa, Florida, this is an excellent ministry that has been training people in the prophetic for many years.

The main thing is to stay connected to the vine, Jesus Christ. Always leave time in your busy day to pray, meditate on God's word and worship your Lord and Savior, Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants to lead you and guide you in this new prophetic walk that you have undertaken. Keep learning to hear from God, in all the wonderful ways in which He speaks to you. Keep a journal of the things you hear from God in these times. Write down your experiences with God and reflect back on them from time to time. But most of all just enjoy your walk with Jesus. He is really the best friend you can ever have!

May God bless you and multiply you, in Jesus name.

Gary and Jean Wilson
Isaiah 61 Ministry Center