



**HIS**

*Voice*

**Revealed from Heaven**

**Gebhardt Berndt**

## **His Voice: Revealed from Heaven**

By Gebhardt Berndt

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*I dedicate this book to my Father and God, who is mindful of me and who has chosen to speak to me through His Holy Spirit. Thank You for always being near.*

*To my precious family who lovingly encourages me to pursue God with all of my heart, mind and strength.*

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## **PREFACE**

My journey with the Prophetic started many years ago when I was still a young boy. I distinctly recall how I always had a sharp spiritual inclination to things around me, especially the atmosphere.

I grew up in a loving Christian family with healthy support and strong Christian-based guidance. I was literally raised in a charismatic Church, sleeping most nights under my parents' chairs as they worshipped God. For me the power of God's Spirit and His demonstrations were as normal as brushing my teeth. I knew from a young age that God was interested in my life. I became more aware of Him as I grew in stature.

When I started in ministry several years ago, I had a deep desire to know Him more. I always

had this ache in my heart that there must be more than what we are experiencing right now. This led me on a path of discovery where I was profoundly introduced to a lifestyle of prayer, His Word and Worship.

One day as I was sitting in a coffee shop, I saw a mantle falling from the sky draping around my shoulders, and at once I clearly heard the Lord say "today I anoint you in the Office of the Prophet". The confirmation of this call was confirmed on several occasions by the Lord, and eventually after many years through our local Church body.

To be straightforward, I am very cautious of titles and would rather not 'wear' them at all. My analysis is based on the large number of pretenders, calling themselves apostles and prophets without the fruit to prove the claim. Nevertheless, I embraced this call with all that I

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had, remaining open to God's leading in every sense.

I strongly believe that the Lord can use people in many capacities according to the grace given to them, provided that they stay close enough to God. It is however true that some are called in one realm only, but in most incidences that is not the case.

Holy Spirit encouraged me to write this book as a helpful reference and tool to enable us to become a voice in this generation. This book contains information on how Satan deceived Adam and Eve, how Jesus broke through the heavens displaying the Kingdom of God. We will also major on the three different levels of the prophetic with many examples as we delve into the foundational principles of having His Word and His Spirit in place. Furthermore, we will look at the prophetic and worship practi-



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cally, as well as activating principles within ourselves to become a prophetic voice.

All Christians should be a voice for God in their different areas of influence, whether it be at home, at work, or between friends or family. Each and every one of us can and must represent the King by being His voice. This book is based on experimental and applied knowledge that has been lived, and has produced visible fruit underscoring His Truth.

It is never too late to be a Voice for Jesus Christ. Therefore, let's journey together, becoming a voice to our generation of people.

# CHAPTER 1:

## HIS ORIGINAL INTENT

God's voice is not a new phenomenon. He has been speaking to His people for thousands of years. In fact, we have been created for fellowship and communion with Him. He has always intended for us to be in close proximity to Him. In the beginning, God created man in His likeness and image.

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27)*

After the Lord made Adam, there came a time where Adam was alone and wanted a help-mate. God provided a helper for him in the form of a woman named Eve. The Bible records in Genesis 2:22, *"Then the LORD God made a*

*woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man”.*

We also see this truth recorded in other parts of Scripture:

*“For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man” (1 Corinthians 11:8-9.)*

*“For Adam was formed first, then Eve” (1 Timothy 2:13).*

The Lord's purpose for Adam and Eve was to give mankind dominion over the earth and subdue it. Every day as they heard God's voice, their knowledge, wisdom, power and abundance increased. The character of God was being formed in them. Adam and Eve were completely comfortable with the Voice of God. It wasn't new or unusual for them, as

they had closeness with God every day. They knew Him by the sound of His voice.

### ***The Sound of His Voice***

Many Christians ask me how I know that it is God speaking. Well the answer is simple! He doesn't sound like us and He definitely doesn't sound like the devil. For clarity sake, it is important to understand that the devil's voice will always be in contradiction to the Scriptures. It may at times be masked in supposed godliness; however, it will be quickly revealed if we know God. Our own voices are mostly logical and analytical. This means that our own voices are bound to reason according to our own knowledge or past experiences. For example, we know that if we pick up a ball in our hands and then open our hands, the ball will fall to the ground. The reason we know this is true, is because we understand gravity and have ex-

perienced this fact. God's voice is different and in the chapters that follow we will explore this truth.

As Adam and Eve stayed close to God His voice must have been a sound of comfort and relationship. It is essential to understand that God's relationship with Adam and Eve was within the demarcated boundaries of obedience; signifying that God required obedience as He developed His friendship with man.

He explicitly commanded Adam and Eve: *"And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.'"* (Genesis 2:16-17)

God also gave Adam and Eve dominion as He instructed them: *"And God blessed them, and*

*God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)*

### **The Devil's Tactics with Eve**

There came a day when Satan wanted to steal this communion and dominion from them. He understood as long as man stayed in obedience and communion with God, they would have dominion, power and authority over him. The devil wanted that authority so that he could do his bidding. In Genesis 3:1 we see how the devil comes to Eve and questions God's Word and His commandment by sowing doubt about God's character and His intentions.

*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?” (Genesis 3: 1).*

At this juncture Eve should have rebuked the devil as he was suggesting things contrary to her knowledge about God, but she entertained his suggestions, and this allowed the devil to move forward with his diabolical plan.

Eve responded by saying, *“We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”* (Genesis 3: 2-3).

The devil replied: *“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will*

*be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3: 4-5).*

This reasoning sounded good to Eve and so she took of the fruit that God forbade her to eat, and gave some to Adam as well, which caused them to die spiritually and become aware of their own “nakedness” or limitations. Before this, they didn't know their limitations as man, due to the fact that they were in communion with God.

### ***How the Devil Schemes***

Before we continue, we need to take a step back and look more intensely at one or two things. First of all, a snake was not an animal that belonged in a garden. The snake was a beast of the field, which means it should have been outside (*“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals“*). This means there must have been some failure on



Adam's part in terms of exercising his dominion, for if he exercised it correctly the snake would never have found entry.

What's more, the name devil is not really a name but a job description. The Greek word for "devil" is *diabolos*, a compound Greek word made up of the word *dia* and *ballo*. The word *dia* means to penetrate something from one side to the other. The word *ballo* means, "to throw something repetitively or again and again, like throwing a ball or a rock".

In Eve's case the devil sowed doubt about God's intentions and His character in her mind. At that point, having the knowledge of God inside of her, Eve should have raised the red flag, leading her to take those thoughts captive. However, she did not do that, and this ultimately led to her to being disobedient towards God's commands.

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We see this in many people's lives as the devil comes with ideas and thoughts, which are contrary to God's truth. We must remember that it is our responsibility to keep ourselves full of the knowledge of God by means of His Word and by spending time with Him. God will not do this for us. The Word of God instructs us that we should be FULL of God's Word, denoting that the Word or knowledge of God should dwell richly, bountifully and overflowing in our lives. The devil knows that if we agree with his suggestions, then he has already won half the battle! Whatever we believe is activated by our faith. Our faith can work for us or against us.

The word declares in 2 Corinthians 10:4-6, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to*

*the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled”.*

This scripture says that God has not left us unarmed against the devil's tactics. Rather, He has equipped us with spiritual weapons that can work effectively against the devil's onslaughts. Note that these weapons are not carnal and they are not of the fleshly realm, which implies that if we try to stand up against the devil in our own strength according to the flesh, then we will be badly beaten. However, if we wage war with our spiritual weapons we will be most effective.

Our spiritual weapons are listed in Ephesians 6, where the Word describes them as the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the sword of the spirit, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the shoes of peace and the lance

of prayer. All of these weapons point to our identity in Christ.

### ***How the Devil does it***

The devil comes with a suggestion, not once or twice, but repetitively. Our responsibility in this onslaught is to take the suggestion or thought captive through the measure of the knowledge of God's Word in our lives. If we focus our thoughts on the devil's suggestions, then we may empower these thoughts by activating them through our faith. The end result would be bondage, slavery or confinement. That is why the Apostle Paul says that the devil builds strongholds in the minds of believers.

A stronghold is a fortress, which is intended to keep people in or out. In our case, if we believe and empower thoughts contrary to God's Word, then we become limited and bound within our own minds. This limitation or bond-

age leads to a place where we have limited communion and fellowship with God, attempting to connect with Him, not in our original design, but from a place of restriction.

Friends, the devil understands that if he can sell us a lie that almost looks like the truth, then he has a fighting chance in conquering God's purpose for our lives. However, the devil knows that if he just walks in with a red cape and horns on his head that we will likely run and see right through his evil plans. That is why he works much more deceitfully, setting us up for failure, taking us to a place where he knows that we will take his bait.

In addition, the devil knows that if the mind is taken captive he can rule our actions. He who controls the mind controls the person. The mind is the epicentre of a person, the software or operating system that empowers emotions and

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actions. That is why God wants to control our minds, for when our minds are full of God's Word we will remain in a place of peace and communion. It is important to note that we have received the "*mind of Christ*" (1 *Corinthians 2:16*), denoting that we have the ability to think correctly, reason correctly, see correctly and live correctly according to God's Word.

In Eve's case, the devil found access into her mind. From that entry point, he twisted what she knew about God, until she reached a place where she acted in disobedience. This disobedience led to a severing of God's original intent for man - man was now incompatible with God due to sin. This meant the original fellowship was broken as sin entered the world.

"Sin" means "to miss the mark", or "miss the original intent", and in this case we see how sin

allowed Adam and Eve to miss the mark with God.

This was the saddest day on the earth when man temporarily lost his communion with God.

**However, God still continued to speak and was never without a plan!**

### ***Old Testament to Jesus***

When we read the first few books of the Old Testament it becomes clear that the Lord was grieved by sin, but the sound of His voice did not diminish. When Cain killed his brother, the Lord asked him, "*Where is Abel your brother?*" (*Genesis 4:9*). Cain was so convicted by his lie that he "*went out from the presence of the Lord*" (*Genesis 4:16*).

Man continued to be fruitful and multiply, but there were only a few righteous men with whom the Lord could communicate. When He

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found a God-fearing man by the name of Enoch, He literally lifted him out from the earth so they could be together. *"And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."* (Genesis 5:24).

In the history of mankind there have been very few like Enoch, Noah, and Abraham who would obey God's voice; yet He continued to speak. There came a point when the children of Israel said, *"No more! We cannot stand hearing His voice any longer"*. They begged the Almighty to stop speaking to them (Exodus 20:19 and Hebrews 12:19).

God's heart must have been broken. Can we imagine what it would be like if our children told us, *"I never want to hear the sound of your voice again because it makes me so fearful"*?

This was a great turning point in history as people refused to hear God's voice for themselves.



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They wanted a mediator, someone who would hear from God on their behalf. The truth is they became so incompatible with God's voice that they did not want to hear it anymore because His voice revealed their condition, which they were not willing to deal with.

We must remember that God's Word comes as an authority to us. We can either obey it or ignore it. When we allow His Word to transform us on the inside, we become compatible with Him.

It is so apparent how quickly man started to decline due to their inability to hear His voice. I am sure that Adam and Eve regretted their disobedience and they would have tried everything to restore the communion, which they once enjoyed. However, man quickly started to move away from God's original intent. Because of this sad condition in man's heart

towards God, He started to speak through mediators. The Bible says that during the Old Testament period, God's revelation to humanity came through a group of people known as the Prophets.

The Old Testament Prophets continued until John the Baptist *“for all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John” (Matthew 11:13)*. John was the last of the Old Testament prophets. When Jesus came, a new prophetic era began. Before Christ came to earth there was a period of 400 years of silence between the Book of Malachi and the Book of Matthew. This means 400 years of silence between God and man!

When we look back in history it all started with Adam and Eve disobeying the commandment of the Lord, which broke their fellowship with the Lord and resulted in sin entering the world.

This fissure in communion led to a rapid decline in man's spiritual state, up to a point where man couldn't stand the sound of God's voice. God then started to speak through a group of people known as the Prophets up to Malachi as the last book of the Old Testament. During the 400-year silence, between Malachi and Matthew, the heavens seemed shut; no revelation, no communication, and no communion....just silence.

### ***Revealed from Heaven***

Thankfully, God did not leave us in this state. He showed us amazing mercy and grace when He sent His Word, Jesus to the earth.

At the age of 30, Jesus went to be baptised in obedience to the Father. After His baptism, Holy Spirit descended upon Him, the heavens were opened and God spoke "*this is my*

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*beloved son in whom I am well pleased"*  
*(Matthew 3:17).*

A new era had commenced. God would no longer speak through mediators but through His Son. *"In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."* (Hebrews 1:1-2)

When Jesus arrived on earth He broke through the heavens, ending the 400 years of silence. He came to restore what was lost. He was the Mediator between God and man. He came to save the lost, to heal our hearts, to bring us back to a place of communion and intimacy with the Father. He restored us to our original design: man with God in fellowship.

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The people of Jesus' day did not know what to do with Him as He was so much different than their religious teachers. He spoke with authority; demons fled as they heard His name; drunkards, prostitutes, the sick and lame all followed Him. The Roman government saw Him as a political threat.

He was God with man - God who became man, in order to break open a way so that we could return to the Father. He wanted to restore the communication and dialogue, the intimacy, love and passion that once were.

He was a man on a divine mission to bring order to chaos. Man didn't yet understand it but His coming meant freedom, hope and life. When the wise men brought Him gifts they brought Him gold, myrrh and frankincense. Gold was a gift for a king, myrrh a gift for the embalming of the dead, and frankincense was

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a gift used in priestly duties. These three gifts displayed and prophesied His future as King, High Priest and the One who would die for the sins of the world.

More importantly, the heavens were not closed anymore; God had come to save His people!

### **Prayer:**

Thank You Father that You sent Jesus to the earth so that we may know You and have fellowship with You. Righteous Father, thank You for Your grace and mercy and love towards us through Jesus Christ. Teach me to hear Your voice more clearly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## CHAPTER 2:

### THE KINGDOM DISPLAYED

*“The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ— He is Lord of all— that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10: 36-38)*

Peter testifies to Cornelius, all his household and guests that God anointed Jesus Christ and that He healed all those who were oppressed by the devil.

## *The Kingdom Displayed*

1 Peter 2: 24-25 states, *“and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed”*

The word *“healing”* in the Greek means *“to cure, to heal or to make whole”*, *“to free from errors and sins”* or *“to bring about one's salvation”*.

*“Oppression”* gives us the picture of someone who forcefully restricts or binds someone in a downward position, like a person who places his hands on the back of the neck of someone and then powerfully pushes downwards. The person that is influenced by the power that comes from above (the hand) is restricted in operation. They can still move and go about their business but with restricted movement.



This gives us the depiction of Jesus coming to take off the limitations of bondage and sin, which the devil placed upon us.

In addition to all of this, Jesus Christ went round displaying the Kingdom of God. The word "Kingdom" means "right to rule or to govern". I personally like the definition: "the way God will do things". Consequently, Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, opened up blind eyes, healed deaf ears and cast out demons. He destroyed the works of darkness, breaking off and casting out their influence in and upon man.

The people of His day ran to Him from every town and city as He gave them hope of a life that could be lived in freedom from oppression. It is important just to note for a moment that a Christian cannot be "possessed", but a Christian can be "*oppressed*".

Possession means “ownership”, and if we belong to God, we are His completely. We know this is true if we study the seal of God referring to Holy Spirit, which He placed on each person as they come to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30).

### ***Area of Influence***

When a person gives his or her life to the Lord they are regenerated immediately. The Scripture says in Titus 3:5, “*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit*”. The Greek word for “regeneration” is *paliggenesidō*, which means “the production of a new life consecrated to God, a radical change of mind for the better and restoring a thing to its pristine state”.

This regeneration also denotes that our spirit becomes renewed immediately at rebirth, it is then that our spirit receives God's seal, His Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13, Ephesians 4:30). When this takes place, we become God's temple, His Holy Shrine (1 Corinthians 6:19).

However, man was created soul, body and spirit. The spirit of man is immediately renewed and remains in that pristine state as Holy Spirit takes residence. Nevertheless, our soul which consists of our mind, will and emotions can still be influenced, and likewise our bodies. Before the fall, man lived from his spirit-man outwards, influencing his soul and flesh. In fallen man we see this reversed as man lives from the flesh inward influencing soul and spirit.

It is in this soul realm, which contains the mind, will and emotions where oppression can take place. As explained in the previous chapter, if

the mind is influenced it won't be long before the emotions and body follow.

Always remember that man has a tremendously strong will. We see this displayed in Mark 5 where the Bible tells the story of the demon possessed man: *"They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High*

*God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit! Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area" (verses 1-10).*

Note that this man had a legion of demons inside of him. A legion is an enormous amount. Most commentaries agree that it was at least more than 6000 demons. The concept is basically that this man, with more than 6000 demons, still had the ability with the power of his will to run to Jesus for freedom. Normally demon possessed people run away from Jesus, but this man ran to Jesus, indicating that he wanted to be free. He knew that he could be free if he could just make it to Jesus! That's why he ran as fast as he could! Unfortunately, the demons took over before he reached Jesus.

However, Jesus commanded them to leave, which they did. This resulted in the man being set free and being in his right mind once again.

The truth being uncovered here is that man has a free will and can exercise it to give demonic influences entry or to get them out by God's power.

***Don't give the Devil a Foothold***

Ephesians 4:27 says, "*neither give place to the devil*". The word "*place*" is the Greek word *topos* and it means "an entry place or access point". This emphatically reveals that we can give demonic power or influences over our lives by the wilful decisions we make in disobedience to God's Word.

The list for entry points is vast. In short an "entry point" can be described as "acts of the flesh in contradiction with the work of the Spirit and the

Word of God". Acts of the flesh are drunkenness, orgies, sexual immorality, adultery and much more. When Christians act in this manner, they wilfully open a door for the devil to attack them. The Bible commands us to be Spirit-led (Romans 8:14) and not led by the flesh. This takes some practice as we yield to the Spirit's leading and exercise dying to ourselves. The Christian's life will never be easy, but it will always be worthwhile.

### ***Legal Right***

Demons or the demonic influences in our lives will not depart unless they have been stripped of their legal right to be there. Demons are experts in legal rights and will remain as long as they are welcome.

We must understand that the devil is out to destroy people. He will use each and every tactic possible to achieve this purpose.

## *The Kingdom Displayed*

Every demonic symptom we display has a root somewhere. This root must first be removed before the symptoms will go.

For example, if Jimmy has a short temper and anger issues, it may be that his anger is a result of negative emotions and feelings he experienced as a child which he has not dealt with in his adulthood. In Jimmy's case, we discover that he was molested at a very young age. He never dealt with the pain, hurt, shame and rejection that he experienced. Now, as an adult, he is angry, hard spoken and overbearing. These are all symptoms that protect his vulnerability. We can say he is angry and outspoken, pushing people away because he does not want to be hurt again. In Jimmy's case, before we can help him with the anger issues, we will first need to establish the birth point of it all. Otherwise, we will only deal with the symptoms



while the root or cause of the problem remains intact.

I once sat with a young man who had intense sexual issues, from which he wanted to be freed. As we counselled this young man we eventually came to a place where the Lord revealed the entry point of this man's situation. After we dealt with the entry point we successfully handled the rest.

In most cases that I have dealt with, I have seen how certain demonic influences team up to be more effective. It is noticeable that unforgiveness, bitterness, rage and anger often go hand-in-hand with fear, rejection, anxiety and depression. Sin always finds a partner in purpose and sin will always attempt to gain momentum. The man who starts to indulge himself with other women's beautiful features will soon find himself involved with porno-

graphic material, etc. The devil seeks an entry point, because he can feed the sin from that vantage point.

The point is simple: In conditions like these, we are hindered and restricted in clearly hearing God's voice. Sin keeps us occupied with ourselves and we lose focus as we shift our hearts and minds away from God towards what is before us. Sin always steals the show. However, He continues to speak to us, to bring us to a place of freedom. His voice does not diminish in sin; rather, it is His voice that leads us out of sin, into paths of righteousness.

It is for this reason that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil so that we could enter into a place of communion with God again, where we can hear and enjoy His voice as His children.

**Prayer:**

Father God, thank You that You sent Jesus Christ so that broken fellowship could be restored. Thank You that in Christ I can hear Your voice clearly. Please continue to speak to me as I grow in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

# CHAPTER 3:

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE

### WORD

One of the crucial elements in becoming a voice for God is the foundation of the Scripture. Without the Word of God firmly in place in one's life, one can easily be misled which can lead to a misrepresentation of God.

In Colossians 3:16 the Bible commands us to be full of God's Word, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"*.

The word "dwell" here is the Greek word *meno*, which depicts someone or something that has taken up residence. We can say that a person

who lives permanently inside our house has taken up residence with us, or we can say that a person is a resident if he is continually welcome in our house. When we look to how this applies to the Word it would denote that the Word of God must be a full-time, permanent resident with us who has made up its mind to stay and to never move out. Therefore, a Christian must continually fill himself with the Word in order for that which comes out of his mouth to be a correct representation of God.

In the Book of Revelations the Church is likened to a candlestick. A candlestick was a household item in early New Testament times, used to bring light into darkness. These candlesticks were mostly made of clay or soil and because of this they could break very easily. In order for this candlestick to give light it needed to be full of oil. Inside the oil was a wick that needed to be saturated so that when it was lit up it could

produce lasting fire. The wick represents us and the oil can represent God's Spirit and His Word. The fire that was produced came out of the mouth of the candlestick, underscoring the truth that if we are full of His Word and Spirit, we will be true mouthpieces for God.

If the Word of God is foundationally embedded in a person's life it will be easy for the Spirit to give utterance through that individual. However, if we don't know what His Word says, how can we possibly think that we can represent Him truthfully?

Many people desire to preach His Word or speak forth prophetic utterances, however this is an honour and is not to be taken lightly. If we look at the word "*preach*", we find this truth to be emphasised. The word "*preach*" is an old Greek word that was used when a king wanted to give a message to his people.

The messenger of the king would come into the king's chambers standing with his ear as close to the king's mouth as possible, so that he wouldn't miss a word. After he received the word of the king, he would call for an assembly with all the people, where he would present the message of the king to the people. If the messenger misrepresented the king in anyway, he would be killed on the spot.

### ***The Word as our Belt***

In Ephesians 6 the Apostle Paul describes the different armour pieces, starting with the belt of truth. This gives us a secret insight into the operation of the armour pieces, which work effectively as the Word of God is centrally fastened to the believer.

For example, *“Faith comes by hearing, hearing comes by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17).

This scripture shows us that without the Word there cannot be faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God, or to get God into action. Therefore, if the Word is not in us it leaves our shields hanging at our side without clear purpose and effectiveness. Furthermore, our shield of faith is crucial for our survival as it quenches the fiery darts of the evil one. A fiery dart was a bamboo, tube-like-arrow, hollow on the inside and filled with combustible liquids. The enemy shot these bamboo arrows into opposing army ranks with great affect. In the same way if we don't have our shield of faith in place we can easily fall prey to the onslaught of the enemy.

***(For a more in-depth study on the armour pieces, refer to my book "Beyond Satan's Reach").***



Furthermore, the passage declares: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”*.  
(Romans 12:2)

The key to transformation is a renewed mind. “Renewal” means “to bring life to that which was formerly dead, bound or limited”. “Re” means “former”, which paints the picture that, in Christ our minds should be reshaped, so that our thinking and reasoning can be aligned to God's Word. If the mind is not full of God's Word there will be no renewal that takes place. In the earlier chapters I mentioned briefly how important the Word is in order for us to resist an attack. I cannot emphasise this enough! If the mind is full of God's Word there won't be much room for lies and deception.

Many years ago a well-respected and influential man said to me that I had grieved the Holy Spirit deeply. This lie went straight to my heart and mind. Fear gripped my soul overnight. Negative thoughts and fear rushed into my heart, which led me to think that if I had grieved Him maybe I had blasphemed Him, and if I had blasphemed Him, how could I still be saved? Then my whole ministry was worthless and maybe I should just quit. Because my mind wasn't full of God's Word this incident launched me into a downward spiral of inward searching and questioning.

I eventually reached a place where I was exhausted and tired. During this period, I lost myself in the Lord's Word and prayed like a madman, which led to a great increase of Word knowledge. This eventually led me to a place where I started to take my thoughts captive.

The reason why the lie was deemed to be truthful was because of the channel it came through. Moreover, the devil knew I had a close, intimate relationship with Holy Spirit and he wanted to destroy that. For him to be successful he needed to use something that seemed as close to the truth as possible. I call this a truth sandwich.

A truth sandwich is something, which the devil sells us as one part lie and two parts truth. The reason why we take it as truth is because in normal reasoning it looks like truth. In my case, I had a deep respect for this minister, and he was well renowned for his ministry. I went through some challenging things within myself during that period and my understanding about the Word and His Spirit was still growing. On top of this I looked eagerly to this minister to teach me in both of these avenues. Thus, I was a perfect candidate for deception. But praise

God; He didn't leave me in that mess of doubt and anxiety. Rather, He brought me out of it more courageous and more embedded in His Word.

In many cases people don't get free from incidences where the enemy launches an onslaught into their minds. I have seen many Christian leaders lose their places of influence due to a lack of taking their thoughts captive. One thing is true: the devil never stops with his onslaughts. Personally, that means I can never stop training myself in the Lord through prayer and studying His Word so that I can be as effective as possible. Not just for the sake of the King, but also for the sake of others.

We must also understand that not all onslaughts are from the devil. There are certain things we cause ourselves due to neglect or not following God's blueprint in life. For exam-

ple: a person cannot just blame the devil for his or her supposed sickness. If a person has never exercised, always ate junk food and didn't rest properly, then illness will be the result of that person's choices.

The same is true in terms of marriages. Many marriages fall apart due to the basics not being covered, like spending quality time together, good communication, regular sexual intercourse and serving one another. My office has often been filled with people blaming the devil for their bad marriages. However, after some investigation we found that the devil had a small part to play, as the people involved were more the catalysts of destruction. This brings us to one truth: if we apply God's truth on a daily basis we will side-step unnecessary burdens and tribulations.

### ***The Word must be part of our Daily Lifestyle***

The Word of God is essential to daily living. I can liken the Word to food. If man does not eat, his physical body won't have the necessary strength to sustain him through the day. His effectiveness, energy, sharpness and frame of mind will all change as he becomes increasingly hungry and weaker. The same applies to the Word, our spiritual bread. If we don't eat of the Word every day, we won't be able to sustain ourselves, as our spirit becomes increasingly hungry for more of God's Word.

The majority of Christians say they find the Word hard to read and most of them would only read small portions of Scripture every now and then. The reason for this is due to undernourished spiritual muscles. Spiritual muscles or spiritual strength comes from regular spiritual exercise. When a person joins a gym for the first

time they won't be able to lift all the heavy weights as their muscles have not been shaped and toned into condition. They may attempt this, but they run the risk of being seriously hurt. This means that if we want to know God's Word we will need to discipline ourselves daily to a place where we consistently take in His Word. As our spiritual muscles become stronger due to consistency, we will be able to take on larger portions of Scripture, which would lead to a place of great Bible knowledge and effectiveness.

But where does one start? My personal belief is that one needs to start small and build consistency first. That could mean, for example, reading two to five chapters every day for a month. In the beginning this will be difficult as our flesh tries to get used to this new spiritual regime. However over time this will become increasingly easier, until our spirit desires more

than just five chapters. This is called spiritual growth. Many years ago when I started to pray in the Spirit, I used small time portions consistently. Today prayer is as natural as brushing my teeth; it is something that must be done every day.

A word of caution: Many “young” or “new-born” Christians want to learn as quickly as possible and as much as possible. Although this is not wrong it can potentially harm them if they learn from the wrong people. In today's spiritual climate there are a host of voices with hundreds of opinions on different aspects of the Word. My advice would be to learn from your spiritual home that God has placed you in. If your Church does not have a proper Bible School or Training Centre then find one with similar spiritual DNA as your Church's.



I have seen many people become very confused as they eat from a host of places spiritually. In the natural it can be seen as a child going to the next-door neighbour and eating with them every day. This cannot work, as children should eat at home. Please don't misunderstand me. I am not saying that one cannot learn from others. However I am saying that in the foundational years, we should be cautious to receive our meals from one trusted source.

### ***The Word is a Manual for Life***

Most men don't like manuals. They would rather figure something out themselves and fail miserably before they opened up a manual and read the instructions. In most cases, men would rather break something before admitting that they didn't have a clue what they were doing.

Conversely, there are things in life that do need a manual or an education in procedures.

If a motor manufacturer sends us overseas to go and train their employees on how to assemble engines, we will need to leave a reference manual or guidelines on our departure, so that those who remain behind could refer to it when we are no longer with them.

The same truth applied to Jesus: He came and demonstrated, and He left a manual for us to follow. Without this manual our attempts may seem great, but it does not mean we are building according to the instructional guide.

Therefore, the Word of God is a blueprint for all Christians, especially to the prophetic, for without it we may stir a crowd, but we can also run into danger of misrepresenting our Heavenly owner.

Let us be people who are well acquainted with the contents of the Christian Manual. Let us make time for it, value it, prioritise our lives according to it, and we will see that God can trust us to present Him correctly.

### ***The Disciples and the Word***

We also see the importance of the Word in the lives of the disciples. In a period of just over three years the disciples received personal instruction and teaching from the Lord Jesus Christ. They saw Him in action, displaying the Kingdom of God as He cast out devils, healed the sick, raised the dead and opened blind eyes. In these experiences they had many questions, which He explained to them, teaching them how to minister and duplicate what He was doing.

He was the teacher and they were the students. Jesus invested His life into the lives of

these 12 men, because He knew that a day would come where they would need these instructions to guide their actions.

And so the New Testament records how Jesus fulfilled His ministry in accordance to the Father's will when He died on the cross. After He was raised from the dead He gave the disciples specific instructions not to leave Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.

Thereafter, we see Jesus disappearing into the clouds with the promise that He would likewise return. This brings us to the Upper room where 120 are gathered in unity and in prayer, awaiting the Promise that Jesus spoke about. Suddenly it happened, as Holy Spirit entered that room, filling and baptising each of them as tongues of fire rested on them. After this initial experience the disciples went out and began

to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ with great boldness and with immediate results.

You can read about this in Acts 2: 1-41, *“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And*

*how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?” Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of*

*My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'* "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised

*up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the Lord always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'* "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not



*left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

*“For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”’ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to*

## *The Foundation of the Word*

*all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."*

What transpired here in essence, over and above the fact that the disciples were baptised with Holy Spirit, was the fact that Holy Spirit enlightened the Word of Jesus inside of the disciples, who produced a voice, or in other words, produced Spirit-filled preaching, which resulted in 3000 new converts.

The Spirit rested on the Word, and that Word then became alive and found a mouth, which produced life.

The Spirit and the Word inside a person works together to produce a voice. We see the Spirit

and the Word working together at creation. We see the Word and the Spirit working together when Jesus broke through the heavens and ended the 400 years of silence. We see this demonstrated earlier in the life of Peter who was one of the first who heard God's voice for himself. When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples: *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"* So they said, *"Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."* He said to them, *"But who do you say that I am?"* (Matthew 16:13-15)

After being raised in a culture in which people felt unqualified to hear directly from heaven, the disciples were hesitant to answer. Then Peter found the courage to say, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matthew 16:16). Jesus replied, *"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not*

*revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 16:17).*

Jesus discerned the origin of the response, and therefore said "*flesh and blood*" did not reveal it to Peter, but Father God.

Before we move on, we need to ask ourselves: 'Do I know God's Word as I should? Or is there room for improvement?'

Honesty is a key to great growth! We need to be honest, take up our Bible and make it a part of our daily lifestyle.

### ***The Word and Paul***

The Apostle Paul was one of the greatest examples of what God could and can do with a man full of the Word. Paul was well trained in the Word of God, so much so, that Holy Spirit could enlighten that Word time and again and bring forth the Word of God with power and

great conviction. Paul literally became a voice due to the magnitude of the Word that dwelt inside of him. The Apostle Paul was the most influential apostle due to the level of God's Word in his life. That makes us think: If Paul could do it, then so can we. The only obstacle to growth is ....US!

**Prayer:**

Father God, thank You for giving me Your Word in my hand. Help me to be a diligent student of the Scripture. Holy Spirit, please teach me the Words of God and bring to remembrance the Words of Jesus. I am ready to learn and to become a voice for You. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## CHAPTER 4:

# THE FOUNDATION OF THE

## SPIRIT

The best example of a life immersed with God's Spirit is Jesus Christ. The Bible describes that after Jesus was led into the wilderness, He was tempted by the devil. After this initial temptation Jesus came out of the wilderness with the accompanying power of God's Spirit, where after He displayed the Kingdom of God.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was completely led by Holy Spirit in all His affairs. We see this truth portrayed in John 11:1-16, *“Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters*

*sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it". Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again".*

*The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."*

*Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him. "Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."*

In this part of the Scriptures we see Jesus' good friend Lazarus being sick which eventually led to his death. Whilst he was sick, Mary and Martha appealed to Jesus to come and pray believing that His prayer would have immediate healing affects that would restore their brother completely. But Jesus did not respond as they had hoped, and stayed away another two days before he eventually went to pray.



On querying his actions Jesus replied, *“If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.”*

This answer paints a vivid picture and truth for us. But before we explain what happened, we need to understand the setting. Remember Jesus was not very popular with the religious leaders of His day. In fact they looked for opportunities to kill Him by catching Him in His words, etc. Unfortunately every time they wanted to take action He just slipped out of their grasp as if He decided the time and day of arrest. So Lazarus' sickness gave them a perfect opportunity to initiate the arrest of Jesus. Their assessment was based on the friendship of Jesus and Lazarus, denoting that Jesus would hasten to Lazarus with the news of the impending sickness and possible death.

However, Jesus did not show up as all had expected, and eventually after two days they thought: “well, maybe He is not coming“. So they packed their bags and left town. At that very moment Holy Spirit gave Jesus the green light and Jesus told His disciples that they were going to Lazarus.

Holy Spirit did not give Jesus “light” or the leading to go to Lazarus, so Jesus stayed. Holy Spirit was already in the future and He knew if Jesus showed up before He was led to be there, that He would possibly be arrested. That is why Jesus had no “light” or leading to go. Jesus was obedient to Holy Spirit’s leading and remained where He was. Obviously the disciples and Mary and Martha did not understand this as they appealed to Him emotionally to go to Lazarus. However, Jesus was not a man that was going to be led by His emotions, rather He was Spirit-led.

It is interesting to note that Jesus still raised Lazarus from the dead, underlying the truth that God's timing is always perfect. When we remain being led by God's Spirit we will have the desired affects all the time. It is when we do the leading that things go astray and miserably wrong.

A couple of months ago my family and I went out for breakfast at our favourite restaurant. As we were walking out after a lovely breakfast I saw an elderly lady sitting at a table eating a small meal. I can't say that I felt led, but I definitely felt stirred, so I paid for her breakfast thinking nothing of it as I left for my day's business.

A couple of days after it happened I met a friend at the same restaurant. On my arrival a waitress came running to me saying, "Sir I just need to tell you a story". She continued by

saying that the old lady was amazed that someone had paid for her meal, where after she continued telling the waitress that just a week prior she had lost her husband, and she had very little money left, and was now at a place of contemplating suicide. She even asked God if He really cared about her. The old lady concluded her story to the waitress by saying that if God could use a stranger to pay for her meal, God could most definitely take care of her.

The crux of the story is simply obedience to an impression from God's Spirit, which initially didn't feel like Him at all, but it resulted in the healing touch of God on a life that needed it desperately.

On another occasion I was enjoying lunch at a restaurant. As the waitress brought my coffee the Lord spoke to me and said she was

pregnant and that she must not be afraid or worried because God will provide and supply in her needs. I was a bit hesitant to share this word because the lady did not look pregnant and I was afraid of making a mistake, because it has happened to me before where I shared a similar word and the girl wasn't pregnant, just overweight. Well I soon pushed my fears away and gave the young lady the word from the Lord. She looked a bit stunned and perplexed, as she walked back to the kitchen. The Lord spoke to me saying that she was thinking: "If this really is God, this man will give me a R300 tip". I objected heavily to this prompting as R300 was a lot of money and my food bill was a mere R50. I eventually gave in and paid the bill with and an additional R300. As I left the restaurant I felt a surge of joy enter my being, as I knew that I was obedient to God no matter

the cost. Later I found out the lady was pregnant and expecting a boy.

### ***Unusual Leadings***

At times, God will speak to us and ask us to do something unusual through extraordinary ways. The key to success is to be obedient to His voice as He leads us by His Spirit. The Bible says all those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God (Rom 8:14). This means one of the qualifications of sons is their obedience.

Jesus sometimes did things that made no sense at all. For example He told a blind man to go and wash his mud-covered eyes after He had smeared them with dirt mixed with saliva, which would produce sight (John 9). He told Peter to go and fish for money to pay temple tax. We read this story in Matthew 17:24-27, *“After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma*

*temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?" "From others," Peter answered. "Then the children are exempt," Jesus said to him. "But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."*

Weird methods with desired results! The point is simple, God gave the method, man needed to be obedient, which produced results. We must understand that it is not the method that counts but the obedience. However, this does not mean that God does things only with the

weird and spectacular. He sometimes uses normal methods to get the desired results. Man likes the spectacular because it gives us a moment in the spotlight.

A word of caution at this stage: God will not tell us to do something that is inconsistent with His Word, and He will most definitely not humiliate people or do things that are detrimental to them. God is always consistent with His Word and His ways.

Many a time when the Lord gives me a word for the Church or a specific group of people, I will first run it through the memory of the scripture within me (this normally happens in seconds). But this is not always the case, as God at times speaks through me in ways that bypass the normal reasoning of man. I especially feel this type of anointing come upon me when I give a directional word to the Church or



to a senior pastor. Please note that these types of prophetic words should always be done in submission and extreme humility.

Another example of the prophetic ministry in the life of Jesus occurs in Mark 14:12-16, *"On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, 'Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.'* The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. *So they prepared the Passover."*

## *The Foundation of the Spirit*

Jesus predicts, with precise accuracy, the events that will happen as the disciples enter a city to prepare the Passover meal. This is just one of the different aspects of the prophetic ministry.

I have seen this in action many times as wonderful men of God give words of knowledge or prophetic insights with great accuracy.

Another example of this happens during the ministry of the Apostle Paul in Acts 21:10-14, *“After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, ‘The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”* When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up

*to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."*

In this example we see the prophet Agabus prophesying very accurately about future events that the Apostle Paul would be involved in. The prophetic is definitely a tool that sometimes pre-warns people so that the Church can act appropriately.

In one such incident I had a very vivid dream one night, where I sat as an onlooker to what seemed like a demonic council meeting of some sort. In the dream the demons were not aware of me at all, but I heard them say: "we will now turn our attention to the women". As I woke up the next morning, I knew that God

had showed me the focus point of a devilish attack that was coming our way as a Church. Unfortunately, we didn't respond appropriately and the attack was launched with detrimental effects to certain ladies in our Church. After the attack we repented and started to intercede through prayer for God's intervention.

In another instance the Lord predicted that a major political party in our country would be divided and split into two camps. At the time of the prophecy it made no sense as this specific political party seemed strong and a united front. However, a couple of weeks after that specific prophecy the political party did split in two and a new party was formed.

To be honest, there are times when I prophesy and afterwards I ask myself: "Why did you say that?" However, when we have decided to be

on call for God, He calls the shots, and we just follow.

### ***Holy Spirit the Coach and Guide in Prophecy***

Holy Spirit knows each individual intimately. He knows what will work for them and what won't. He knows how to deliver the message and how not to deliver the message.

In John 16:13, *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."*

In this verse Jesus describes Holy Spirit as a "Guide" to the disciples. The Greek word for "guide" is best translated as "tour guide", denoting that Holy Spirit would be the disciples' Guide as they continued on the mission of the

Kingdom as instructed by Jesus. This was a crucial truth for the disciples to understand as Jesus was returning to the Father and He would leave them Holy Spirit.

Remember, Jesus was the disciples' Guide, He was their Helper, He was their Comforter, and He was their Leader. However, as Jesus departed, He gave Holy Spirit to fulfil all of these roles.

But what is a tour guide? A tour guide is someone who has expertise in his or her given field, which they exhibit as a group of people follow them through museums, historical sites, religious institutions and so forth. The people following the tour guide are totally dependent on his or her knowledge and leading, as they are followers. If we had a brilliant tour guide the tour would be educational, insightful and exciting.

Applied to Holy Spirit we can say that Jesus Christ gave us a personal Guide for life, who is an expert on life. This is an extremely important truth because it means we are not left alone to our own demise, rather Jesus has fulfilled His Word in saying that we will not be left as orphans, or as those that are comfortless.

I have learned that His coaching and guidance is extremely important in terms of the prophetic, because a right word in the wrong time, will produce no fruit, and no change. However, a right word in perfect timing can be life changing!

Every now and then it happens that God will give me insight into people's lives and especially regarding the struggles they are facing. In one such an incident an elderly man came and greeted me. As he shook my hand I saw a vision of him sitting behind a computer screen

watching pornographic material. This truth revealed came as a shock to me as the person was in a leadership position in a certain Church. On asking God what He wanted me to do I received the response that I should pray. Therefore, I kept the information to myself and started to pray for the older gentleman. When I saw him again, and as I greeted him I received another vision for his life. This time I saw that things had changed and that the man wasn't bound in sin anymore. God continued to speak to me saying that He sometimes shares information, which He doesn't want us to respond to; rather, He wants us to pray.

As a prophetic people we need to understand that God loves to communicate and sometimes share things with us just because He wants to.



In another incident we dealt with a young man who was bound in the abuse of drugs. As I sat with him the Lord shared with me the root of his problem, which I felt He wanted to deal with right there and then. I felt His leading so strong that I immediately prayed for the young man. As I laid my hands on him in prayer it looked like something knocked him with a great force in the stomach. This was the power of God taking hold of that young man. He fell to the ground gripped by God's Spirit, demons started to scream out and it wasn't long before the young man was completely free. He remained free from drugs until his death in a car accident that wasn't related to drugs at all.

The point is simply this, Holy Spirit does the guidance and the leading and we follow Him. He is the Spirit of Truth and can therefore only lead us truthfully.

*The Foundation of the Spirit*

One day I called out a group of people for prayer, as I normally like to do in Church. As I moved down the line my eye caught a lady who was reacting under the power of God as Holy Spirit operated in the line of people. I didn't move to her immediately as I continued to pray for the people one by one. Eventually I came to her, and by now she was moaning and grinding her teeth as the demons started to surface. In that instance I heard Holy Spirit say "tell her to look into your eyes; that will be enough". I proceeded to tell the young lady to look at me, and when she finally did, her eyes looked full of pain and hurt. I said to her "look into my eyes and see the love of Jesus for you". She did so and there was an immediate wheeze as the demons fled. The bottom line was that Holy Spirit knew that this girl just needed a manifestation of Jesus' love to be free and He chose my eyes as the method. My

responsibility in this case was to follow His leading and guidance, and because of that, godly results were produced.

### ***The Spirit of Truth***

On three occasions, in a short space of four chapters in the Book of John 13-16, Jesus called Holy Spirit "*the Spirit of Truth*". In Scripture it is a theological fact that if God repeats Himself more than once, an extremely important truth or person is revealed.

Like in Samuel's case, God called him more than once to eventually get his attention. Samuel was an important person in the plan of God as it was through Samuel that God anointed David, and it was through the bloodline of David, that Jesus came.

Whenever God repeats a truth it means we need to take notice, learn it and apply it! In the

case of Holy Spirit we continuously need to remind ourselves that He is *“the Spirit of Truth”*. This denotes that we can trust Him completely, wholeheartedly and without question.

This is extremely important and we should make sure that this truth is deeply embedded in our hearts. He is Truth. He leads in Truth. He guides in Truth. He is the Spirit of Truth.

### ***Holy Spirit our Helper***

Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, says, *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God”* (Romans 8:26-28).

The Greek word for “*help*”, as in this verse, is the word *sunantilambonai*, which is a compound word of three different words in the Greek. What is interesting about this word is that it is unique to the Bible, or we can say it has been “coined” by the Bible.

The three words, which make up this word, are: *Sun – anti – lambonai*. The word *sun* (pronounced soon) means “in partnership or in cooperation with”. The word *anti* means “against”, and the word *lambonai* means, “to take hold of something, to receive something and make it our own”.

When applied to Holy Spirit it would mean that we have a Helper that wants to give us assistance whenever we require it. Truth be told, we need it all the time. Remember Jesus called Holy Spirit a Comforter in John 14:26.

The word “*comforter*” in the Greek is the Word *parakletos*. The word *parakletos* is a compound Greek word, which means that it is made up of two other words: the word *para* and *kaleo*. The word *para* means “close, or next to”. This is also the word we used to get our English word parasite. Thus, this word *para* paints a picture of one that is very close to or nearby. The second word is the Greek word *kaleo*, which means “to call, to beckon or to instruct”. If we put the two words together, *parakletos*, we find the meaning of one that is “instructed, called or beckoned to be close or nearby the believer”. This then would mean that every Christian has Holy Spirit close by, right at their side, dwelling within with a specific purpose of helping them in life. His help is focused towards truth founded according to the Words of Jesus, as Jesus said that He wouldn’t be representing

Himself, rather He would remind us of the Words of Christ.

In the prophetic this means His voice comes in consistency with His Word. He cannot say or reveal anything to us that is not in accordance to the Word. If man deviates from this truth he becomes a mouthpiece for Satan. That is why I emphasize the extremely important truth that a Christian must be full of God's Word if they have a desire to prophesy. Without His Word deeply rooted within us, we cannot represent Him accurately!

### ***Unwholesome Speech***

One of the things that I have learned is that Holy Spirit does not like unwholesome words. The Apostle Paul in the Book of Ephesians commands us not to allow unwholesome words to proceed out of our mouth. The Greek word for “*unwholesome*” produces the picture of

something that is rotten, decaying, stinking or dead. When Christians allow themselves to become gossipers, slanderers, backbiters and whisperers our speech becomes unwholesome. We should run away from unwholesome speech as it produces all kinds of evil and allocates us to a place of judgment and pride. On the contrary we should allow words of edification to come out of our mouths. The word “edify” means “to build” or “to construct”. This means that a Christian can produce stinking, rotting decay through their mouths and we can also produce things that edify, build, restore and heal.

I want to encourage you to do the latter, if you are a person who desires to prophesy.

### ***Holy Spirit and Communion***

Holy Spirit’s role in prophecy is imperative, important and vital. Without His guidance and



help we will not be able to produce the words of God. In 2 Corinthians 13:14 the Apostle Paul writes, *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen”*.

The Greek word for “communion” is *koinonia*, which paints a picture of close and regular fellowship. This means we have a responsibility to fellowship with Holy Spirit on a daily basis. This is only possible if we relate to Him as a person and not a dove, oil or an “it”. A dove and oil are only symbols of Holy Spirit, but that is not who He is.

He is a person who has feelings. The Bible tells us He can be grieved, vexed, quenched and blasphemed. These are all things that a person experiences. I have learned that He is extremely gentle and lowly of heart; He comes where He is welcomed and needed. He does

not walk among the arrogant or the proud. In countless Church services, which I have had the honour of facilitating, I have felt His presence come in as a sweet fragrance. Often He would arrive during a specific song or juncture in the preaching. His presence is important and life changing. Before I preach, I always ask Him to be with me, to lead me and to help me. I refuse to do anything if He does not lead the way. A Church service without God's Spirit is dead and lifeless, boring and religious. However, if He is in the mix, all things change and become possible.

Before I end this chapter I want you to review your personal connection with Him. Are you where you are supposed to be in your relationship with God's Spirit? What hindrances are there which must be removed? What change can you produce?

## HIS VOICE: REVEALED FROM HEAVEN

There is never a better time than now to start producing the life you have always wanted. Know Him today!

### **Prayer:**

Father God, thank You that You gave me Your Spirit to dwell in me and be with me wherever I go. Holy Spirit, please start to lead me and guide me, teach me and help me that I may be a voice for God. Remove all hindrances and obstacles that may stifle my relationship with You. In Jesus' Name I ask. Amen.

## **CHAPTER 5:**

### **MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE**

*"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."*  
*(John 10: 27-30)*

His voice should come naturally to all that have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Nevertheless, in some instances Christians don't hear His voice as they should. The reasons may vary from person to person. However, the bottom line truth remains, *"My sheep hear My voice"*.

God is very expressive in how He speaks to us and He can use any channel as a voice. God can speak to us through nature, people, His Word and many other avenues. The point is He speaks, and we should listen. One of the underlying principles to the prophetic is a sincere heart of obedience. This means that before we prepare ourselves to be spokespeople on behalf of the King; we first would need to deal with our level of obedience to Him.

Our single distinguishing characteristic as Christians should be our obedience. We must remember that delayed obedience is disobedience. The best measure of a spiritual life is not its ecstasies but its obedience. Therefore, it is impossible to follow Christ superficially. It is everything or nothing, full commitment or no commitment, full sub-mission or no submission. None of us expect to go to heaven halfway; therefore the road is never half in obedience.

The heart of obedience is in accordance to our confession of faith in Christ. We are obedient because we want to please our Master. We must make sure that we settle the matter of obedience before we want to become a voice. If God's Word is still a negotiable area of our lives, we should rather grow in our Christian character before prophesying or speaking on behalf of Him.

With the above in place, I would like to share regarding how He speaks through people, specifically through prophets and His Spirit.

### ***Three Levels of the Prophetic***

To my understanding there are three levels to the prophetic. They are: (1) the Prophetic Spirit, (2) the Gift of Prophecy and (3) the Office of the Prophet. I will explain each of these individually; the third one will be discussed in the next chapter.

***Spirit of Prophecy or the Prophetic Spirit***

*“So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the Tent. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again. However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the Tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp” (Numbers 11:24-27).*

In this scripture we see God taking from the Spirit (Holy Spirit) that was upon Moses and

placing it on the 70 elders, resulting in them prophesying.

Now we find in Revelations 19:10 the following scripture: *"At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*

Therefore, we see that the Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of Prophecy is none other than Holy Spirit. This would mean that all people who accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour have in essence the ability to prophesy because of the indwelling Spirit.

When we continue in scripture we find in Acts 2:38, *"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ*



*for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

We can therefore make the conclusion that those who have repented and received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour have the wonderful experience of receiving the Gift of Holy Spirit, and because we have Holy Spirit inside of us, we now have the ability to prophesy according to His leading.

Finally in Acts 2:16-17 Peter quoted the words of the prophet Joel; *"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams."*

God is doing exactly what He said He would do in the last days and as His Holy Spirit is

poured out on people, they are bound to prophesy.

From this passage we can then conclude that all believers can prophesy as a result of the Holy Spirit being poured out on them. In most cases we can be a prophetic voice in our immediate families long before we are a voice in the Church and the world.

When a father takes up his position as head of the family and proclaims God's health and provision for them, he has become a prophetic voice to his family. When a mother stands up and proclaims God's sincere love and grace over her children, she has become a prophetic voice over her children.

Many people are afraid of the prophetic due to the entire stigma that is attached to this expression, but there is no reason to prohibit all

prophetic utterances just because there are some flaky ones out there.

A prophetic utterance is purely God's Word revealed through believers, or in other words, it is God's intentions that are made clear or known. The boundary of this first level of expression is God's Word, denoting that the more Word we have inside of us the easier it will become to be His mouthpiece.

In most instances when people prophesy quoting scriptures, they are prophesying on this level. This is a powerful tool for the Church, and is meant to encourage believers. Prophecy also denotes seeing things the way God sees them, gaining new perspective and so on. The greatest restriction to prophecy is due to unbelief, fear and rejection. Unbelief says, "What if this is not God?", and fear and rejection are voices that are birthed when we don't want to

take the risk of being humiliated, ridiculed or rejected. Nonetheless, we must throw off our limitations and take the risk and be His mouthpiece. There is nothing wrong in declaring God's intention boldly and with confidence. In actual fact, God rejoices when His children become confident in His promises. However, we must go beyond our confines and utilize the opportunity.

When children start riding their bikes they don't master the skill immediately. Normally it takes some practice before they eventually get it right. The same applies to us. When we step out in faith speaking as the Spirit leads us, we may get it wrong at times. However, God has grace with us in this. As long as our hearts remain clean and our motives pure, we can be assured that the Lord applies grace. However, this does not mean we must prophesy everything that we supposedly think is God. We

should make sure that He is doing the leading and not us.

In the beginning when the Lord started to use me I was very unsure of myself, so I asked Him to give me clear indications that it was Him speaking. In most cases He gave me a nudge of confidence or a gesture in assurance, which I followed. Remember that Holy Spirit is the originator and we are the followers. He creates or gives birth; we speak.

In the Church today we must be very careful in giving words to every person that comes our way. The reason for this is simple: There are many Christians who are immature in the Lord, and the wrong word at the wrong time can be devastating. I have dealt with many precious young Christians who supposedly received a word from the Lord from someone else in the Church. In most instances these words were

inconsistent with God's Word, His character and His ways.

I would be very careful to take a directional word from someone on this level, because most of the time directional life-changing words won't be expressed here. Rather, it would be reserved for the Office of the Prophet or your pastor, which God entrusted you to.

***Some clear indications when God truly speaks:***

**1) *Peace must be present:*** If there is no peace something is wrong. God gave us His peace as an umpire for our souls; therefore, we should allow peace to guide our hearts and minds before we act.

**2) *It can be a confirmation:*** When God speaks to us through a person it will most often be a confirmation of what He has already said to us.

God is our Father and He can speak to us directly at any time.

**3) *The word must “gel” with our spirit:*** If our first inclination is resistance in our heart towards a word it is probable that the prophetic word is not from the Lord. Remember it is the same Spirit in the person giving the word that also dwells in us, so there must be a coagulation that takes place in our heart. If we see “red” flags go up everywhere as we receive a word, then we must shelve that word. If it is God, it will come to pass in His time.

One day a man in our local Church came to me with a supposed word from the Lord saying that he had a dream about my family dying. He continued saying that he was telling me about it so that I could pray against it. The problem with this word was two-fold. Firstly, it was inconsistent with everything I knew about

## *My Sheep Hear My Voice*

God, because if God wanted to give me a word like that, He could have said it to me Himself. God has given me clear dreams about similar things like this in the past where we intervened through prayer. Secondly, the dream made me angry and upset my heart tremendously, as I felt this was an attempt from Satan to drive fear into my heart in order for me to lose focus.

In addition to this, the messenger was not at the place where he needed to be in the Lord, so the vehicle, which God supposedly used, didn't make sense. Be reminded that God is a God of order, which means that He will and can speak through the proper vehicles. In my case I am submitted to a local leadership whom can speak into my life at any time. This, however, does not mean that God cannot speak through anyone He chooses, but it does



mean that the Lord is not the author of confusion, but of peace.

In my specific situation I resisted this word, rebuked its suggestions and reminded myself of God's Word and His intentions with my life. We must emphatically refuse to give attention to any word or suggestion, which is contrary to God's Word and His ways.

The only attitude we should have is one, which is against the devil and his onslaughts. We must be people who believe God, resist the devil and then he will flee from us. Remember we belong to God and He is a good Father with good intentions for our lives.

### ***Gift of Prophecy***

*"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of*

*wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)*

First and foremost, the Gift of Prophecy is for people, *“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” (1 Corinthians 14:3).*

Secondly, the Gift of Prophecy is directed at believers, *“Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but*

*prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.” (1 Corinthians 14:22)*

The purpose for the Gift of Prophecy is for edification, exhortation, and comfort; *“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the Church”.* (1 Corinthians 14: 3-4).

This categorically means that the Gift of Prophecy is limited to edification, exhortation, and comfort because God does not discourage believers.

*“To edify”* means to “build up or strengthen” and this will cause people to be more effective as members of the body of Christ.

*“Exhortation”* means “to stimulate, to encourage, to admonish, and to stir up” and although admonish could include severe warning and

even rebuke, it does not include condemnation. “*Comfort*” means “to cheer up”. This means that true prophecy never brings condemnation.

There have been various times and occasions where believers would prophecy the biggest load of hogwash I have ever heard over other believers. For illustration: “God gave you this sickness to teach you something” or “being poor is being humble, God wants you to be happy with your underprivileged condition” or “God wants you to go and marry Suzie, God said He will open up her eyes to you“. There are many more that I can mention, but the bottom line remains that these words are inconsistent with God’s Word, His ways, His character and all that we have come to learn about Him.

In the next chapter we will continue with the Office of the Prophet in terms of the New Testament.

Before we continue, I want to encourage you to be quiet for a moment and ask the Lord to help you to speak to people when He leads you. Ask the Father to express the Gift of Prophecy through you. It is a wonderful experience when the Lord uses us successfully to bring about change in the lives of others.

Lastly, put the gift or Spirit that is inside you into practice. Don't allow the potential of heaven to remain dormant inside of you, rather look for opportunities to be obedient to His voice and His leading.

*My Sheep Hear My Voice*

**Prayer:**

Thank You Father, that You speak so abundantly to us. Thank You that I can hear Your voice as Your child (John 1:12). Help me to distinguish between Your voice and all the other voices in the world. Holy Spirit, please lead me and guide me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

# **CHAPTER 6:**

## **THE OFFICE OF THE**

### **PROPHET**

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with*

## *The Office of the Prophet*

*which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:11-16)*

The Office of the Prophet carries with it a delegated authority from Jesus Christ. This authority is meant to function for the edification of the people and not for their destruction. The prophet is a servant of the people and should not be put on a pedestal to be worshipped. The prophet should function as a team player, subservient to apostolic oversight.

If a prophet leads a Church he must have apostolic oversight over his life and ministry. In God's body we have been called to work together, subservient to one another's grace that we have received. The more we can draw from one another's call and grace the more effective we will be. A prophet is also someone who must have visible fruit displayed in his or



her life. If there is no visible Holy Spirit fruit, something is very wrong.

A prophet will always seek to direct men to the Lord and bring them into right standing with God. The lifestyle of a prophet will show whether he is a true or a false prophet. *“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten, because a tree is known by its fruit.” (Matthew 12:33)*

There are various levels or degrees of inspiration in prophetic utterances in the New Testament. We see Moses prophesying with greater authority than did the 70 elders (Numbers 11:25-29). There are differing degrees of unction, or anointing, given by Holy Spirit for individual prophecies. Not all prophets prophesy in the same sphere. Some are used to prophesy to nations; some to people groups;

## *The Office of the Prophet*

some to the body as a whole; some prophesy to individuals.

The true Prophetic Office carries a tremendous authority and blessing. I have been fortunate enough to see this office in action many times with extreme godly fruit as the result.

Sadly, because of many whom have misrepresented this office, it has fallen into disrepute and scrutiny. On the other hand, if you feel that you are called as a prophet I want to encourage you to never back down.

Religion in others would like to mould us into a clone. However, God has made each one of us unique, which includes our expression in Him. We need to submit ourselves to a spiritual father in the Lord who can play a leading role in our lives. Many times God will use a father figure in a mature minister of the Lord to counsel us, coach us and lead us. The purpose

is for us to take on that person's style until we have developed our own. As we mature in the Lord we will gradually grow in our expression.

Many years ago, as a young minister, I was fortunate enough to have a very godly man in my life, whom I could imitate and learn from. He taught me invaluable lessons of excellence, honour, dignity and loving God's Word above anything else. For many years I studied this man's ministry, the way he acted and spoke. His footprint in my life remains secure. After years of learning from him, I started to develop my own style and rhythm according to the Church and place God had chosen for me.

This is an important lesson for all young prophets; learn as much as you can, as quickly as you can. Have a heart, which is eager for input. You can either learn all by yourself, which may take years, or you can learn from

## *The Office of the Prophet*

others and their experiences. I have discovered that the latter is more enjoyable and productive.

In the day and age in which we live, we desperately need the true expression of this office. Sadly, but true, this office has always been handled differently than the other four. This is a mistake as the role of the Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist and Apostle is just as crucial as the Office of the Prophet. In actual fact they need to operate together as a well-oiled machine. The stronger the unity and cohesiveness between these are, the stronger the Kingdom output.

Prophets are peculiar people who are often misunderstood and misinterpreted. The anointing that rests on prophets often reveals the contents of people's hearts around them. I have had many experiences where people

around me would hate me and speak evil of me for no specific reason. In most cases it's not the person, but the Spirit that rests on the person that makes them uncomfortable. We must note that this is an office that will not always be popular, but this shouldn't be the focus. God's approval is all that counts.

Prophets can also be used to change the spiritual atmosphere of a place, region or even Church services. It has often happened to me where I had to first deal with the restricting religious spirit in the atmosphere before we, as a Church, could experience breakthrough. A prophet discerns the atmosphere and changes it according to Holy Spirit's leading. The reason for doing this is simple: God requires faith in order to operate, and therefore the people's response is imperative.

One of the most deadly spirits in the Church today is a religious spirit. It takes on many forms and shapes. In essence a religious spirit opposes the grace of God and the finished work of Christ. Faith looks to God. Religion looks to the works of man. When our focus is mainly on the works within the Church, then we run a high risk of religion stepping in.

### ***Prophetic Principles***

There are some key principles we must learn and practice in terms of the prophetic. I will discuss each of these in the remainder of this chapter and in the chapters that follow:

#### **1. War with the Prophetic**

*“This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having faith and a good*

*conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.” (1 Timothy 1:18-20)*

Paul charges Timothy to war according to the prophecies spoken over his life. This means that Timothy had a responsibility after he received a Word of God over his life.

To war according to a prophetic word spoken over our lives means that we have taken ownership of that word, we believed that word, and we want to see it manifested in our lives. We have activated our faith and are ready to put works to it.

We can actively war with prophetic words spoken over our lives through prayer, through confessing it and by reminding God about it. A prophetic word that we have agreed over can

be extremely powerful and helpful as we develop in the Lord.

Many years ago, while I was praying, God gave me a clear vision, seven years into the future. In this vision, I saw myself in the future in a certain position, role and function. I then understood that many aspects were still missing in my education, training and spiritual maturity. With God's help, I began working on them, one at a time. God likes to partner with us as we take Him seriously. He loves it when we actually believe what He says, and that His words over our lives will be fulfilled.

## **2. Test all 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." (1 John 4:1)*



In today's current spiritual climate it is vital and very important that we do not just blindly receive any prophetic word spoken over our lives. I can liken a prophetic word to a scalpel. If the wrong person has the scalpel we will get maimed, hurt and severely damaged. As mentioned earlier there are clear indicators to know whether a word is from the Lord or not. We need to test the words if we are uncertain. Take them to your leadership and let them pray with you. God is not concerned or offended when we test the words. If a word is from the Lord it will not break down when tested. Everything that is built by or originated from God stands the test of time.

### **3. A Prophetic Word draws the Enemy's Attention**

After God said, "*this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased*", there was an immediate response, a test, and a contradiction to test the

word spoken. When God spoke or made His heart clear over His Son, the devil heard it too. We can liken it to a light that is switched on in the darkness. During the temptation of Jesus, the devil tried to contradict the word spoken, demanding of Jesus to perform certain acts in order to validate the Word. But Jesus refused as His identity was birthed out of what His Father said and not what He was able to do. Identity is birthed out of God and not action. Action is the by-product of who we are.

In many cases after we have received a prophetic word, our circumstances will deteriorate before they improve. The reason for this is unknown to me, but I have seen how many people push through these difficult times, resulting in a stronger faith, as they see the prophetic word over their lives come to pass. After a prophetic word from God coming to pass in

our lives, something may happen that seems to contradict that word.

I once prophesied over a young lady that she would be with child soon. I even gave a date and a time period. Lo and behold, the lady became pregnant and her baby should have been born in the time period given. However, she lost the child in the first trimester due to medical reasons. I did not understand this as the Word of God was clear and even true - how did it then not come to pass?

In another incident I prophesied over a man's profession giving intricate detail over a three-year period. This all came to pass, word for word. In most cases now, God does not speak to me too long in advance before He wants to give a prophetic word. More often than not He will only stir my heart for a specific person. In these cases, I need to step out in faith and in

obedience to His leading. Praise God in all situations He gave me the insight as I opened my mouth. These are good spiritual exercises to become spiritually fit.

It is perfectly acceptable when we receive some form of attention as God makes His intentions clear over our lives. However, what is foundationally important is that we keep on believing God, making sure that we take hold of His promises with a sure decision to stand firm until we have seen God's word at work in our lives.

#### **4. Responding Appropriately when God Speaks**

*"Elisha said, "Get a bow and some arrows," and he did so. "Take the bow in your hands," he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot.*

*“The Lord’s arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!” Elisha declared. “You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek.” Then he said, “Take the arrows,” and the king took them. Elisha told him, “Strike the ground.” He struck it three times and stopped. The man of God was angry with him and said, “You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times.” (2 Kings 13:15-19)*

The king responded incorrectly and thus had limited results. He should have struck the ground more times with the arrows. His inadequate response showed the lack of knowledge of God in his life. Therefore, our attitude or response will determine the outcome. One of the greatest examples of a lack of knowledge is to think that we don't need to respond when God

has spoken. When God has said some-thing, a response is always required!

We see a negative response in the life Zechariah; *“Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel answered, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.”(Luke 1:18-20)*

On the other hand, we see Mary responding positively and full of faith when God speaks to her, *“I am the Lord’s servant, Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said. Then the angel left her.” (Luke 1:38)*

Some of us need to be uneducated to be educated again by the Word. Some of our responses are based on education received by the world, which causes us to respond appropriately.

At times God will say things that require extreme faith. For example, when Jesus wanted to pay temple tax, for Himself and Simon, He used a method that made no sense in the natural, but if Simon had responded incorrectly he would not have had the desired result.

Our response to God is crucial. There are many believers in Church today who have received prophetic words over their lives that have not been fulfilled. Part of the reason for this is their limited, restricted or lack of response to the Word of God. If God has said something, He requires a response from our side.

A good question that we may ask ourselves is: What has God said about me? Additionally, we may ask: What have I done about it?

At times, God has chosen to work in partnership with man. The reason for this is unknown, as He surely does not need our input. However, in His divine wisdom He has chosen to do this, therefore we need to ask Him what our responsibility is. We should not be lazy when it comes to the promises of God as they are all yes and amen in Christ.

**Prayer:**

Father God, thank You that You gave apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists and pastors for the edification of Your body. Illuminate clearly to me my part and function in Your body. I want to make my call and election sure. In Jesus' name I ask. Amen.



# CHAPTER 7:

## CHARACTER OF THE

### PROPHET AND WORSHIP

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint*

*supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."(Ephesians 4: 11-16)*

In earlier chapters, I briefly mentioned the teamwork aspect to the prophetic, which is crucial to the value of this office. In this chapter, I would like to major on the character of the prophetic expression within the confinements and principles of Ephesians 4, amongst other things.

First of all, it is imperative to note that the prophetic office is mentioned in a list of five offices, with a specific purpose of helping the body of Christ come to maturity and to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is an integrated truth, as the office has not been designed to function solely by itself without the support of the other offices. The prophet's role is

therefore subservient, together with all the offices, towards The Lord Jesus Christ and His body, the Church.

### ***Presentation of Words***

Presentation of a prophetic word is important in the light of the recipients and the setting. In today's local Church it is unusual for prophets to also be senior pastors. Nevertheless, in many cases it is true that the senior pastor is also called into the prophetic office. If this is the case, presentation of the words become easier as the senior pastor is responsible for what goes on in his Church. However, if the prophet is not the senior pastor, the presentation of the words becomes crucial.

In all settings however, there must be a clear sense and show of humility, as arrogance and pride are contrary to the characteristics of our Lord.

## *Character of the Prophet and Worship*

When a word is presented in humility and in the fear of the Lord, the source of that Word seems credible. However, there are more factors that need to be considered when a word is released within the Church context where the assembly is gathered together.

As mentioned, the character of the person is important when a prophetic word is considered. If a person has a spirit of humility and gentleness, with a true heart of being obedient to the Lord, they will not be upset or concerned when the word they received from the Lord is not released. However, if a person has ulterior motives they will be very upset when they don't get the opportunity to share the word.

In our Church we have a method called "ministry microphone", which gives the body of Christ the opportunity to contribute to the

Church service through prophetic giftings, songs, words of wisdom, etc. A leader is stationed at the “ministry microphone” to discern the words, which the people want to share with the congregation. This leader is subservient to the senior pastor and is required at all times, to clear a word with him should the word be doubtful or in opposition to the mood of the service. For example, if someone comes with a word of judgment, but the senior pastor is preaching on love, that word will not be released, as it does not serve (complement) the word that will be preached. This does not necessarily mean that the word is incorrect. It just means the word does not fit in with that specific time and service.

I have seen countless times how people get very upset when they do not get the opportunity to share a word, which they believe to be fitting for that particular time. This attitude

disqualifies them from being a mouthpiece for God, as God is not arrogant, nor does He express Himself in pride.

A person who wants to share a strong word or a directional word to the Church must also be known to that local Church. God loves order (1 Corinthians 14:40) and will not usually give directional words through people that are unknown to the local body.

In our local body we meticulously look at all prophetic words that have been shared over the years. In most of these instances we can see a clear line or “connecting word”, which God wants to share. Consistency is key to the prophetic, which simply indicates that God speaks with the same or “one” voice, although He may speak through many different people.

There have been countless times when the Lord has spoken to me in Church services or

the gatherings of the saints. In some of these instances the Lord has allowed me to share His Word with great boldness. At other times, after submission to the senior pastor, the Lord has made me wait or I was not given an opportunity to share the word at all. What is important here is being obedient to the Lord. If the Lord wants a word to be shared, it will be shared. If we remain humble and our hearts are pure, we will remain in a place of submission, serving the body of Christ.

Therefore, a prophet must be an example; displaying humility, obedience, servanthood and submission. We see this strongly amplified in the Life of Christ: *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being*

*found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)*

The character of the prophet remains vitally important, and I would like to strongly advise anyone who wants to prophesy, to make absolutely sure that their character (in Christ) is in place before they do so. Gifting can outgrow character and this then becomes a dangerous disposition for the local body where a person wants to serve.



A prophet is one that will draw the attention of the people at times. Given that a prophet is observed more closely, his example to the people remains fundamental. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:1, "*Imitate me as I imitate Christ*". When applied to the prophet, this means that his or her life needs to be an example for others, something worth imitating.

In today's society people are so drawn to the glamour, the ostentatious and that which edifies the flesh. The servant of the Lord must, however, be different. I believe that as long as we remain on the earth we should continue to grow within ourselves and in our knowledge of the Lord. This means that we should continually receive input and live lives that are honourable with as much honesty and transparency as we can muster.

## ***The Prophetic and Worship***

Praise and worship are powerful tools in initiating the flow of the prophetic. It is much easier to prophesy with the string or sound of an instrument, than with silence. In a perfect setting, musicians serve the people by engaging them in worship.

We see the importance of this in the life of David. David was a musician as well as a warrior, and he established a place of music in the worship of the Lord. Even before the sacrifices had been moved to Jerusalem, he instructed the Levitical musicians to celebrate the ark's journey to Zion (1 Chronicles 15:16-24), and appointed Asaph as chief musician in charge of continual thanksgiving and praise (1 Chronicles 16:1-7). The description of this activity (1 Chronicles 25:1-7) suggests that these musicians led in a spontaneous and overwhelming

outpouring of worship, especially at high moments like the dedication of Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 5:11-14). This may be the "new song" to which the Psalms refer (33:3, 40:3, 96:1, 144:9, 149:1). Perhaps many Psalms originated in this pre-temple Davidic worship, centering around the Ark of the Covenant.

Israeli worship music was both vocal and instrumental. The sanctuary orchestra contributed to the celebration of Israel's covenant with the Lord. Its instruments fall into the same general class with which we are familiar: percussion, winds (pipes) and strings. Horns, trumpets, cymbals, harps and lyres were used when the ark was brought to Mount Zion, and their continued use is reflected in their mention in the Psalms. The sanctuary instruments were not solo instruments, but sounded simultaneously to call the assembly to worship (Psalm 98:6). Strings and pipes, if used, probably

## *Character of the Prophet and Worship*

played the modalities (tune elements) in the psalm being sung, with perhaps distinctive patterns of ornamentation. Horns, trumpets and cymbals added to the festive joy by creating a larger sound. The “*selah*” of the Psalms may have been an instrumental interlude, or a “lifting up” of sound by both singers and instrumentalists. Tambourines, usually played by women, are mentioned in connection with dancing at Israeli festivals (Psalm 68:25), but were not used in the sanctuary where only men served as priests and musicians.

We can never underestimate the power of praise and worship. The Lord is worthy to be praised, honoured, worshipped and celebrated! (John 4:23-24)

If a prophet knows his musicians, it is easy to flow with them as the anointing increases. Music at times can be stifling or a blockage if a

member of the band operates in the “flesh“, trying to impress the people.

Through many years I have noticed what works for me in terms of the gift that God has placed in me and I often refer back to it as He leads. If you are not in the position of working with a group of musicians, ask the Lord to lead you to moments where He stirs you to prophesy. Take note of that which stirs your soul into action.

***According to our Grace Received***

*“But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.” (Ephesians 4:7)*

*“Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you” (Ephesians 3:2)*

*“According to the grace of God which was given to me” (1 Corinthians 3:10)*

All of these scriptures clearly communicate that we have received grace or divine, unmerited favour to serve the Lord. This is important as it means that our ability is not from ourselves but according to the grace that He has bestowed upon us. He chose the grace; He chose the work, He chose! We should walk in this grace according to His leading and do everything we can to make sure that the purpose for His grace is expressed through us. This means that God has saved us by grace, and His grace also activates and empowers us for service.

The Apostle Paul knew this truth emphatically as he called on God's grace to assist and empower him. When God calls a person, He anoints the person. That anointing is God's empowerment for the task that lies ahead. However the anointing is received within God's grace, revealing that we've done nothing to

deserve it, although we can align ourselves with it. He has predestined us for good works.

Applied to the prophetic, it means that all Christians can prophesy on the first level, as we all have the Spirit of Prophecy inside of us. But only some of us will be able to flow in the Gift of Prophecy and a few will be Prophets. All of this is according to His grace that He has given. This strongly advocates that we have no reason to boast, as everything we have, all that we can be or do comes from the Lord. He is the Designer and we are the design.

If we understand the grace that we have been called into, it is easy to flow in it. If we don't have a grace (or a calling) for something then we should rather flow in that which comes naturally to us.

In my case there are certain expressions in the body of Christ that do not come naturally to

me, this however does not mean that I should shy away from them. It just means that they don't come naturally to me. However, prophecy, the teaching of the Word, shepherding and preaching comes very naturally to me, as well as leadership and vision, amongst other things. These are some of the graces that I have been called into, or you can say that I have confidence in.

Many of my precious fellow friends minister excitedly in evangelism. They would go everywhere being a witness to the Lord. In my case this does not come naturally to me and I need to work on this aspect of my spiritual expression.

The point that I would like to make is simply: If you find your grace, flow in it! Develop it and strengthen it! But do not ignore the others; rather connect with them. The body is strongest if we all do what we are called to do collec-



tively, and in unity with a single vision to establish the body of Christ.

What is your grace? What comes naturally to you? Ask the Lord to highlight this to you if you are unsure. He will answer and guide your steps. When God reveals your grace to you, do your part and make sure you align yourself as best you can, and develop yourself in this area.

**Prayer:**

Father, thank You that Jesus Christ came to set an example for all of us to follow and to imitate. God, You are worthy to be praised and honoured. Holy Spirit, please help me to be a person that gives God the praise and worship due to His Name. Father, show me the grace that You have called me into. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

# CHAPTER 8:

## HOW GOD WORKS WITH AN

### INDIVIDUAL

In this chapter I want to convey how the Lord speaks to me and how He works with me, personally, when I give a prophetic word. I realise that in certain circles people would tell me not to write this, nevertheless I would like to capture some of this information as a tool to strengthen and encourage you in your walk with the Lord. Please note that this is not a set of rules or the only way God operates. This is simply how He works with me. I pray that this will help you in some way or another.

#### ***Personal Words***

When God gives me a word for an individual, He will normally show me a person He would

like to talk to. In most instances, I just know by impression that He has chosen an individual. This will be confirmed with a peace in my heart and with a clear leading from Holy Spirit.

I then wait for His further leading to give the word to the person. He is precise in timing and it is important to wait. In most cases He will speak to me in my heart as I deliver the message or He will give me pictures, which I would interpret to convey the message. He will always give a picture or pictures that I understand. His words normally flow like a stream of water from a tap. When the tap is closed, it is an indication to keep quiet. Don't go beyond His words. His words flow like a stream and then it stops. At times He doesn't give me anything, up to the point where I need to give the word to the person. At other times He speaks to me beforehand. What is imperative is to follow His leading and guidance.

## *How God Works with an Individual*

Sometimes when I give a word to someone I can see that they receive the word; at other times it is evident that they don't receive the word. This may be due to a lack of faith or ignorance. In either case, I give the word to the person without wondering which it is. Even if I knew, my function is to be obedient to the Lord. If the person rejects the word, sadly, it is then their problem.

It does frustrate me nonetheless, when I see the great lack of faith at times. Remember, our job is to be obedient, to wait for His timing which comes through His leading, and then to give the word.

### ***Words for the Assembly***

When God gives me a word for the Church, it will happen in the same way. I will have a clear impression or leading that He wants to speak. I customarily clear this with Holy Spirit, submit it to

the senior pastor and then wait for an opportunity. At times it feels like He takes control of my body, almost like I become “possessed” by the anointing. In times like these, the power of God will flow through my body like fire and my whole body will be lit up with power. It feels like I want to burst as His presence settles on me. When this happens my mouth normally opens by itself and I speak whatever He says- there is no time for reasoning or thinking. ***In these instances, submission and humility are key!***

God's voice is always clear and there is never any doubt in my heart that He is speaking when He speaks. ***A word of caution again:*** God is absolutely consistent with His word, and this means that we cannot act or say something that is not in line with His will and character. The prophetic is a personal journey, which you discover in your walk with God.

Truly, this is a personal journey that you must undertake with God.

In the next chapter we will speak on activating certain principles, which you can apply in order to assist you.

### ***The Importance of Prayer***

Here are some scriptures on prayer:

*"Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."  
(Romans 8:26)*

*"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."  
(Philippians 4:6)*

*"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;" (Colossians 4:2)*

*"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

*"I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (1 Timothy 2:8)*

Prayer is crucial to the prophetic as prayer gives us insight into the intentions of God. Prayer is also a crucial vehicle in preparing the heart of the person who wants to share a word. There are two types of prayer; praying in understanding and praying in tongues.

Praying in the understanding simply means to pray with our mind in our national or ethnic tongue, according to what we understand. These can be prayers for help, assistance, health or whatsoever else.

Praying in tongues is praying through Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

***(For a more detailed explanation on praying in tongues, see my book: “Plugged In - A Life with God’s Spirit”).***

Praying in tongues is crucial to the believer as it enables us to pray the will of the Father as Holy Spirit prays in and through us. Praying in tongues also builds our faith, and it is this part that is crucial in terms of the prophetic. When I have prayed for an extensive time in tongues according to Jude 20, I have become sensitive and tuned into the Father’s voice and His will for situations and people. This is a truth that can and will be experienced when we put it into practice.

Many people want these things defined, down to the last detail. However, the man with a



theory ceases to have a theory when he has experienced the truth in action.

If we want to be prophetic in any sense we will need to be people of prayer. The Bible speaks enough on this topic for us to know that it is essential and important.

If we want to prophesy over people, we firstly need to be sure that we spend time in prayer for those people. Before I enter into any service or meeting where prophecy may flow, or even before I need to serve God's people in any capacity, I spend time in prayer. Prayer enables the heart to understand God's purposes. Prayer and the prophetic are partners and they should not be separated. It is not by works that God uses us, however, if we don't pray I doubt whether we will gain true insight.

A prayer life is developed by starting small and by being consistent. It starts by praying five

minutes a day in tongues. Prayer times begin with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving opens the heart for praise and aligns us to pray effectively. After we have prayed for all that we wanted to in the understanding, we may switch to praying in tongues for five minutes. If we stay consistent, our spirits will develop and long for more. Finally, prayer is a spiritual discipline that must be applied. If we think about this in the natural it makes a lot of sense why we should pray. For example, if a husband never speaks to his wife, the marriage will not be very strong and can potentially run into deep, troubled waters. The truth is, without communication, nothing can be shared, experienced or conveyed. When applied to God, without communicating with Him effectively we will never know His heart.

### ***Loving God's People***

The basis of all things is love.

If we don't love people; we are disqualified to minister to them. Love makes sure that the motives and intentions are pure.

Therefore, before we prophesy to anyone, we should first ask ourselves the following question: Do we love this person we want to minister to? If the answer is "no", then we must not prophesy.

This underlines the truth that we, who are servants of the Lord, must only operate in His ways and with His heart through love. Remember we represent God; therefore, we must make sure that we do so in love. The two greatest commandments are to love the Lord and to love all people.

We can fulfil these commandments by making sure our hearts are fixed on the Lord and His Word. Jesus was a man who was moved with compassion for people. His compassion was

birthed out of love and His desire to see them whole and healed.

That is the goal of the prophetic. To make God's intentions known to people so that they can flourish under His purposes as they become whole and healed. The true prophetic expression always brings people closer to God. This must be the case as His voice draws all men to Him.

Lastly, leave titles alone. Don't allow people to call you "prophet", "teacher", etc. It is really saddening to see how many people take the titles, without embracing the work, effort, love, fruit and compassion that is required. Titles are important in some instances. However, titles do not give us identity or ability. If that is the case with you, change it! Your identity lies in the Word of God and your relationship with Him.

Be known as a servant of the Lord with a heart for His people. Our reward comes from the Lord, not people.

**Prayer:**

Thank You Father, that You have bestowed Your grace upon me, enabling me to become a vessel of honour for Your Names sake. Father, please help me to love people, to be a person of prayer and someone that represents You truthfully and honourably. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## **CHAPTER 9:**

# **ACTIVATING PRINCIPLES**

As we have mentioned in previous chapters, those who are born again have received the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is Holy Spirit in us, is also the Prophetic Spirit as mentioned in Revelations 19:10. Because Holy Spirit is a Prophetic Spirit, it means that all Christians have the ability to prophesy or bring forth God's perspective through His Word.

We have also said that a prophet, and also all Christians, must have the basis or foundation of the Word in their lives, as well as a growing relationship with Holy Spirit. We briefly covered various ways in which we can relate to Holy Spirit.

***(I strongly recommend that you read my book: “Plugged In – A Life with God’s Spirit” for an in-depth discussion on this topic).***

In this final chapter, I would like to look at some activating principles, which you can apply to grow in the prophetic:

### **1. Start with your own life**

Make sure that you know all that there is to know about God's Word and His promises for your life in Christ. This means, as mentioned in previous chapters, that you would need to start to study the Word of God as never before. Start by professing God's Word over your life on a daily basis. Contradict the current situations, which are contrary to God's Word in your life, by confessing (prophesying) His Word over yourself. For example, if you are sick, meditate on God's Words about healing and confess healing scriptures over your life.

## Activating Principles

Confession doesn't just mean a verbal repetition of the *logos* word. Rather it means to put your faith into action by truly believing the *rhema* word in your heart and professing it with your mouth. It is with the heart that we believe and it is with the mouth that we confess. Here are some scriptures as examples:

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;" (Luke 4:18)*

*"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;" (Isaiah 61:1)*



*“But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.” (Matthew 9:22)*

*“Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” (Matthew 9:2)*

*“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.” (3 John 1:2)*

*“Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captives of Judah and the captives of Israel to return, and will rebuild those places as at the first. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have*

## Activating Principles

*sinned and by which they have transgressed against Me. Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.”(Jeremiah 33:6-9)*

*“Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,” (Isaiah 58:8-9)*

*“But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like*

*stall-fed calves.” (Malachi 4:2)*

*“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”  
(Matthew 4:23)*

We need to take God's Word seriously. He meant everything He said in His Word and He will fulfil it. God delights in it when we contradict the satanic suggestions by believing His Word.

Do the same with your family; start believing God! If you have a family member that is lost and in need of salvation, declare over him or her that they will be saved. For example, the Scripture says:

## Activating Principles

*"They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household."  
(Acts 16:31)*

*"For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy." (1 Corinthians 7:14)*

*"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children."  
(Psalms 103:17)*

When we stand on God's promises, believing them with confession, we become dangerous.

Prophecy God's provision over your finances. For example, the Scripture again says: *"I will*

*surely and abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.” (Psalm 132: 15)*

*“And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity].” (2 Corinthians 9: 10)*

*“Your flock found a dwelling place in it; You, O God, in Your goodness did provide for the poor and needy.” (Psalm 68: 10)*

*“And my God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19)*

There are so many scriptures and areas of life that I can mention. Search the Scriptures for yourself and start to declare the Word of the Lord over your life, which includes your mar-

riage, children, family, workplace, future, and so much more. This is the first step into the prophetic.

## **2. Look for opportunities to serve**

The first qualifier for ministry is serving. Don't be an illegitimate person within the Church of God. Use the proper channels and rather be known for your willingness to serve than for your willingness to minister. Serving qualifies the heart and teaches you invaluable lessons, which are needed for success and longevity in ministry. Don't be a benchwarmer, having big dreams but no application. In serving you will find opportunities to minister to people. Jesus came to serve, not to be served. This means we cannot be different from our Master.

Consider this scripture; *"But the greatest among you shall be your servant."* (Matthew 23:11). Enlist for active duty in service for God and His

Church. Make yourself available to your pastor or leader. Don't wait for it to happen, get up and activate it as you ready yourself to serve.

### **3. Step out in faith**

We must look for opportunities to serve God and exercise our faith.

If we don't have an eagerness to step out in faith we will never learn. However, if we seek for opportunities to exercise our faith we will find numerous opportunities. Start to trust the Lord to speak to you about people. Make sure your intentions and motives are pure. Step out and share the Word as He leads. If you get it right, well done. If not, try again. You will discover the more you try, the easier it becomes. In the beginning, I struggled to share words with people, and honestly, I think I got it wrong most of the time. However, years later, I am assured of His voice and the accuracy of the

words. Be a person of faith. Step out and change your world.

#### **4. Get a mentor**

It is true that nobody can completely teach you to prophesy, as the Lord likes to do this Himself. However, submit yourself to someone whom you trust and can use as a mirror or regulator for the things you believe the Lord is sharing with you. Often in these conversations God births deeper insight and foresight. The Bible also instructs us to be a people who walk in submission to one another (Ephesians 5:21).

#### ***Concluding thoughts***

There is so much more I could share with you about the prophetic, but I believe this book entails enough information to activate you in serving the Lord more wholeheartedly in your pursuit to achieve His purposes.



## HIS VOICE: REVEALED FROM HEAVEN

Be a person who is:

- Filled with His Word;
- Full of His Spirit;
- Obedient;
- Full of faith;
- Saturated in love.

I pray that the Lord's grace will flourish over your life as He walks with you, and as you become a voice to His people. NEVER EVER STOP PROPHECYING!

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## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Pastor Gebhardt Berndt has been a member of Hatfield Christian Church since birth. After completing his National Senior Certificate he studied Law at the University of Pretoria and University of South Africa. Thereafter he completed a four-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in Bible and Theology at the Global University, USA, graduating Cum Laude. At present he is enrolled for a Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership (MOL) at Regent University, USA.

As pastor, Gebhardt has been serving Hatfield Christian Church North dynamically and fervently: a Church with a congregation of more than 2000 believers. His responsibilities include: Head of Young People Department, Head of Training Department, and Area Shepherding Pastor. Another passionate and dedicated mis-

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Pastor Gebhardt has ministered locally, nationally and internationally on diverse topics. Some of his favourites will always prevail: the Prophetic and Holy Spirit. Furthermore, he has a profound passion for the Word of God and is interested in the Greek translation of the Biblical text. His heart lies in observing God's Word being taught to the Church in its entirety and for all Christians to live a life of victory in Christ.

Pastor Gebhardt has completed the following books thus far in 2013: *"Beyond Satan's Reach"*, *"Plugged In – A Life with God's Spirit"*, and *"There must be more – A Life Full of God's Promise"*.

*About the Author*

He has also written a fifth book that will be available at the end of 2013: "*Stick Like Glue Marriage: God's Design*".

He has been married to his cherished wife Shannon since 2005 and they are blessed with two precious daughters, Yasmin and Mickaele.

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