

RESET WEEK 4 “PROPHETIC MINISTRY AND OUR LIVES”

– PATRICK WALTON / 1.28.2018

Ephesians 4:7-16 | 2nd Peter 1:19-21

INTRODUCTION—*Revelation, rollercoasters and strange people*

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus and is a revelation of his heart for His people:

Revelation 19:10 *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

John 16:13-15 *“However, when He, the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you...Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.”*

Prophecy today is mostly “human words” speaking something that God has brought to mind. Prophecy is a mixture of man’s words and God’s words. It might be 10% God’s words and 90% man’s words, but those numbers could be higher based on the person’s gift and their maturity.

We received the scriptures through a process we call “*verbal plenary inspiration.*” Verbal meaning the words we received were spoken by God, not just the concepts, but the very words. Plenary meaning that all parts of the Bible are equally authoritative. Inspiration meaning God guided Biblical authors to write exactly what God expressed.

2nd Timothy 3:16-17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God (is God breathed), and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

2nd Peter 1:19-21 *“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”*

Unlike the Catholic Church (ex-cathedra) and the Mormons (President—Prophet, seer and revelator—“...the only person on earth who receives revelation from God to guide the entire church...”), Christ followers don’t believe prophets and prophetic ministry today is infallible or to be added alongside the Bible.

1st Thessalonians 5:19-21 *“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.”*

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Prophetic ministry should always honor and be supported by the Bible. We don't build our lives on prophets, prophecies or prophetic ministry; we build our lives on the Bible (Christ Jesus).

For Christ followers, prophecy shouldn't scare us, or spook us as something uncontrollable—it's not the same as scripture, it's fallible and should be tested—but it shouldn't be rejected

WHAT DOES PROPHETIC MINISTRY LOOK LIKE TODAY?

- (1) The office of a Prophet—These people have a track record of regularly prophesying accurate information. They give corrective information to the body of Christ and are recognized by those around them in authority as Prophets. All believers are called to prophesy (**1st Cor. 14:1-3,39**) however not all are called to be prophets (**Eph. 4:7-16**).
- (2) Prophetic Ministry—These people receive helpful prophetic words on a regular basis and occasionally some higher revelation (open heavens, visions, pictures) and are mixed with power gifts.
- (3) Simply Prophecy—These people are used for edification, encouragement, and comfort to God's people through verses, thoughts and ideas. It happens at coffee shops, the workplace, ministry lines but not usually the microphone. This is for everybody (**Acts 2:16-18; 1st Cor. 14:39**).

WHAT DO WE DO WITH PROPHETIC WORDS?

Prophetic words (*divine revelation*) and God's promises aren't guarantees, until we partner with Him in them—until then, they are just that: promises.

Revelation 2-3 *"To him who overcomes, I will give...To him who overcomes, I will give...To him who overcomes, I will give..."*

God has a part to play and you have a part to play—God won't do your part, and you can't do God's part—*We sow, we water, we keep, but the increase belongs to God* (**1st Cor. 3:5-9; James 2:14-26**).

The primary part that we play is to test the word, receive it, agree with it and then guard it;

1st Timothy 1:18 *"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..."*

1st Timothy 4:14-15 *"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Mediate on these things; give yourself entirely to them..."*

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The strength of prophetic ministry is how it calls out to the internal secrets of our heart that we haven't shared with anyone, letting us know that God sees us and that God believes in what He's placed in us (1st Cor. 14:24-25). His words over us become a rudder for our life and destiny;

Proverbs 29:18 *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law."*

Be patient with God's promises—sometimes they take decades to fulfill—Be selective who you share God's destiny over your life with—you have to guard, to keep, and wage war over what God has said.

Keep track of all of it—write down any words, dreams, insights or things that God might be giving to you

SOME RANDOM POINTS ABOUT PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- (1) Prophecy should never take the place of prayer, bible reading, and waiting on God.
- (2) Christ followers shouldn't chase prophetic ministry, signs and wonders, or anointed people/places.
- (3) It shouldn't replace Godly counsel by Pastors, Elders, and Leaders.
- (4) We shouldn't make decisions based on a single prophetic word.
- (5) We don't prophesy about dates, mates, or babies.
- (6) Prophetic ministry gives us targets to pray for, things to consider, and insight that we didn't have previously.
- (7) The prophetic brings corporate blessings and provides an atmosphere for safety within the local body.
- (8) Prophetic ministry releases Jesus' presence in our midst.
- (9) Prophetic ministry calls us into greater depths in Christ, faith, and a fresh contending for God's purposes.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Currently we have broken up all the prophetic words and given them (or they are coming) to the transcribers who will type out everything that was said—After you have received that word, about two weeks later, our leadership team will be following up with you to go over those words

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We're also typing out all the corporate words for IHOPNW that were given and the words over our city and our intention is to make those known to our body and city so that we can begin to pray into them

- (1) Charlie Sweet returning January 23rd-27th 2019
- (2) February 4th 2018—Final message on Reset
- (3) February 11th-March 18th 2018—"Philemon, A Letter Born In Conflict" w/42 day devotional
- (4) April 1st 2018—Easter Sunday
- (5) April 8th -May 2018 "The Struggle Is Real" a series on suffering and the sovereignty of God

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