

Kingdom Living course- Kingdom Prophecy

1- Introduction to prophecy–

Prophecy can be three things: -

- *Word of wisdom- future looking which divulges Gods purposes for the future Paul sees a vision of Macedonian man saying come to Macedonia and help us and he goes. Acts 16 6-10*
 - “Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them”
- *Word of knowledge- past or present looking and is a revelation that breaks through in a situation e.g. woman at the well john 4: 15-19*
 - The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet
- *Prophecy/tongues through utterance- the utterance of the thoughts of God either in your own language or in tongues (language of heaven)*
 - Speaking God’s words but through the style and voice of the prophet – must be in line with the bible
 - “Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people” (Isaiah 28:11)

a. How do we hear God speak?

- i. **The bible** – best way to check its from God – a verse in your head or as you are reading a text it speaks to your situation **e.g. Cancer patient eg- “they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” Mark 16:18**
- ii. **Prophetic Words**- impression or audible voice- a sense of what God is saying must still be in line with the bible may be a word of knowledge or wisdom.
 1. We teach on this badly when I was a child I thought I would hear “Kate this is God”- not so common but does happen

2. I have once heard audible voice- on a train/The audible voice of God at Jesus' baptism
3. Word EG- "Father to the fatherless"

iii. **Pictures-** seeing a picture in your mind or projected

1. E.g. peoples faces Jack Deer saw pornography across a mans face and was able to pray with him about it - This is what we worry prophetic people see when they look at us but not as common as in your mind
2. The lord often asks of prophets in the bible what do you see e.g. Amos and Jeremiah and then the lord explains the picture. "What do you see Amos? I see a plumb line I replied then the lord said Look I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel I will spare them no longer" (Amos 7:8)
3. I think in words more than pictures as less artistic and again we teach badly on this and expect to see the picture on the wall like a magic eye picture, this can happen but is more common in your mind
4. Sometimes related to healing e.g. a picture of a leg/elbow/kidney that's what God wants to heal.
5. Jayne Coller share word

iv. **Visions-** like watching a moving picture – a series of events – e.g. Isaiah in Isaiah 1
"The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah"

1. e.g. Tim stones when coming to Bristol

v. **Dreams-** similar to visions whilst you are asleep

1. I am a very light sleeper so have lots of dreams where God speaks to me
2. In the bible Joseph had prophetic dreams
3. EG- Girl age 12 praying for persecuted Christians

vi. **Angelic/Demonic encounters-** not something I have physically seen but am aware of two realms. I would very much like to see an angel so am praying for it

1. Daniel's encounter with an angel in Daniel 10-
2. Children very often see this-EG Girl church age 4, girl aged 7at end of the bed
3. Two angels outside the vicars house – Placement EG

vii. **Impressions/conscience-** you just know- but this must be tested

1. *"Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their heart"* (Mark 2:8)
2. This happens to me quite a lot e.g. School e.g. and prayer for lady in church

viii. **Other mediums-**

1. TV, Film, advertising boards- e.g. M&S Lorry "Plan a because there is no plan b"

2. Creation, non-Christians, feathers e.g. story of Rebekah “ Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge” – I’m trying to never be offended by God however he chooses to speak!

Viii. Tongues -

- **Individual tongues**
 - This is primarily for the believer to edify him/her and as a devotional gift
 - Can be used to pray when we don’t know what to pray - Can be the language of heaven (Glossalalia) or an unknown language to us (Xenolalia) e.g. St Aldates prayer ministry
 - Doesn’t need an interpretation – we can also use this gift to pray “over people” in a prayer ministry setting
 - *“Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church”- (1 Cor 14:4)- “Edify” in Greek means to build a building- create a bigger space within us for God to be at work – tongues builds us up*
 - Tongues can be seen as an entry level gift and releases greater anointing in the other gifts -Can help to open the channels of prophecy – Jackie Pullinger 15mins a day in tongues releases the prophetic and Ram Babu (evangelist to the nations) – tongues is the secret to all the miracles he’s seen God do through him
- **Corporate tongue-** giving a tongue
 - 1 Cor14: 27-28 “When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.”
 - Must be an interpretation- we should wait for this and if it is not given we should seek God for it
 - Not everyone should give his or her tongue – this isn’t usually a problem in my experience!!
- **Interpretation of tongues**
 - Not a translation of tongues- that is why the interpretation can seem a lot shorter than the tongue given
 - Anyone may interpret the tongue not just the person giving the tongue- but if you give it you must be prepared to seek god for the interpretation
 - I expect God in his graciousness gives interpretation to more than one person.

2- Prophecy

a. What is the prophetic word for?

i. To encourage, strengthen and comfort

1. 1 Cor 14:3 “But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort”
2. Curacy story- “its Birmingham” and “god has a job for you but someone is in it and he is preparing it for you”- Curacy knowing it would be long process- god doesn’t change the plan but the information helps you feel reassured when it happens

ii. Builds up the church

1. 1 Cor 14:12 "So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church"
2. Not a place to air grievances with the church "Thus says the lord" – chairs/pews!
3. EG crossway- affirms what is planned and releases us into new ministries

iii. To bring direction for future events-

1. Tim's Finland youth pastor – God promises new job
2. E.g. zebras from New York! – Breaks into the situation

iv. To bring correction and confrontation of sin

1. "But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!" 1 Cor 14:24
2. A difficult word to give - Be careful in giving this people are already suffering –

v. For information- to encourage us to pray

1. Judgement about what to share and what to take to God in prayer
2. Knowing about an affair- pray into it

b. Beginning to use the prophetic gift

i. Learn the voice of God-

1. Job talks about the Thunder of Gods voice
2. Elijah talks of the still small voice
3. Ezekiel talks of the voice like rushing waters
4. Samuel talks of the everyday voice (mistaken for Eli)

ii. Practice learning the voice of God

1. Get to know God better by spending time with him- become more in tune with him
2. When you are on the landline you know some peoples voice because you know them "its me"
3. Expect to hear Gods voice "my sheep will hear my voice"
4. God is speaking we are just not always listening- Aug 14th Ref in SG book

There are 3 key stages to understanding revelation from God:-

A. Revelation - What you see, hear, receive e.g. *a picture of a bare tree*

- Try and be as specific as possible and avoid misinterpretation e.g. the lord will give you the desires of your heart

B. Interpretation - What does it mean?

E.g. I believe the tree represents you and you are in a dry place where things are being stripped away and God is taking you back to basics and showing you more of who you are. I believe this is a winter time but a spring time is coming.

- At this point beware of assumptions or moving into the natural mind and don't manipulate e.g. God said to me
- When praying for someone and asking for revelation for them, it's helpful to include them in the process of interpretation.

C. Application - How to put the word into practice

e.g. if you are in a difficult season of god stripping things back have wise friends around you and good spiritual support. Get as much learning from the experience as God is often closer in hard times but take comfort that spring follows winter and this place is not the end. Get involved with what God wants to do in you in this time.

Delivering words

- Deliver with confidentiality and grace and be prepared to admit when you are wrong
- Some words need birthing – some are quick and some are like elephants and bring delay- be patient and faithful with each word
- Consider timing (is this word for now or just for me to pray into) and tone (angry tones scare people!)
- If you give a word you are responsible to pray for the word to be fulfilled

Beware

- Pride: 'I need to know all three levels.' Just give what god gives you
- Rushing: stay waiting on the Lord for clarity.
- Independence: God likes using people to discern together.
- Deal with blockages
 - Disobedience- If you don't obey God will use another mouthpiece
 - Fear- silences you- I have felt scared to share words God keeps trying but eventually he will use someone else
 - Unbelief- God can't use me- God uses the strangest people and advice for us if we receive a word from someone unusual – Birmingham word!

Weighing and testing

Biblical Discernment is all about recognising what is happening

- It's about being able to judge well
- Making a judgement about what is true and what is in error
- It's about understanding what God is doing
- It's about the process of testing and weighing to know what is correct

When applied to hearing the voice of God

- It's about making a judgement about whether what we've heard is from God or not

How can we do that?

Key principles in discernment

1. **The principle of resonance**- 1 John 2:27 – Anointing of the Holy Spirit resides within us

- When God speaks we can expect God, the HS within us
- To confirm that message
- That's the principal of resonance

In practice – like a gut feeling

- You just know something is right or wrong
- Because, as it's being shared, you have a clear feeling about it
- In your heart/spirit

E.G Original Design prayer

- **Everything resonated**
- **Many connected with previous words – GOD WILL CONFIRM HIS WORD**

2. **Consistency with Scripture**

When God speaks his 'now' words to us

- He will never contradict his 'always' word to us
- Which is scripture – 2 Tim 3:16
- The Holy Spirit will not contradict himself
- Because he is the (John 14) Spirit of truth and his job is to lead us into all truth

Eg if you think God is telling you that it's ok to have an affair with a woman on the next table, he's not...

3. **Brings encouragement, comfort or strength**

When God speaks to us

- And particularly when he speaks to us for another person
- It will be for their encouragement, comfort or strengthening e.g.

Sometimes that doesn't look like encouragement, comfort or strengthening but it is

- **EG man on plane**

4. **Jesus is perfect theology**

Anything which contradicts his character

- Or which is inconsistent with his teaching
- Will never be God speaking to you

5. **We all make mistakes**

Probably the most important point!

- just because someone tells you that they've had a word from God
- It doesn't automatically mean that it is!

EG – emotional breakdown

EG 'Your marriage is in trouble

So we have to learn how to discern what is from God

- Personal responsibility to discern for ourselves

BUT – we all make mistakes

- Need to be humble and relaxed about things going wrong

learning to walk

- Keep falling over
- Keep making mistakes
- No one gets stressed out about a child learning
- God doesn't get stressed out about it
- But sometimes we can

Mature prophetic environment is built on twin foundations of grace and risk

- Grace – because we all get it wrong
- Risk – because that's how we grow
- Culture where that's ok!- DANGER – bad experience – reject the prophetic

3- God speaks to us specifically and in detail

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

Acts 9:10-12