

Leadership Development Program

Module 9 – Leading in the prophetic



Prophets speak the heart of God into a situation. The Greek word “*prophetes*” means “to speak before” or “to speak for”. This speaking can range from general encouragement to a prediction of future events depending on the prophetic gifting and calling of the one delivering the message.

All believers are called to be prophetic. This includes understanding the heart of God for your own life, seeing people from God’s perspective and being led by the Holy Spirit. In this module, we will look at how to be prophetic as well as how to help those that we lead to become more prophetic.

1 Corinthian 14:1...4 – *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.... he who prophesies edifies the church.”*

This Scripture shows the high value that the Lord places on being prophetic as well as its purpose – to build others. To understand how to be more prophetic, we should first of all understand the differing levels of prophetic grace.

1. Being led by (or witnessed to) the Spirit

Romans 8:14 - 16 *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God”*

All Christians have the Spirit of God living in them. According to the preceding Scripture, the Spirit of God “witnesses” to our Spirit that we are children of God. This phrase “bears witness” means “to testify jointly” or “a second level of awareness” which the Spirit of God declares to our spirit. In other places in Scripture, the Spirit is described as leading us to pray, to take authority, to make decisions, to be warned, to take action and to use a spiritual gift. Even though this “witnessing” is a part of the normal Christian life and is not a “gift” just for some, there are ways in which we can more attuned to what He is witnessing

1. *Understand that the Holy Spirit is a person and relate to Him as such* – The Holy Spirit has a mind (Romans 8:27), a will (1 Corinthians 12:11) and feelings (Ephesians 4:30). We are not relating to a fire, a wind or water, these are simply descriptions on how we feel Him in our bodies and minds. Our sensitivity to the Lord’s leadings is a direct result of intimacy with Him. We are not intimate with the Lord so that we can be prophetic, being prophetic is simply a natural outcome of our relationship with Him.

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2. *Understand the difference between soul and spirit.* Our soul is our intellect, memory and our emotions. Its role is to help us understand the world around us. Our spirit is where we communicate with the Lord and is how we understand Him, His ways and what He is saying to us. It is important that we learn where our information comes from as we do not want to interpret an emotional reaction as a leading from the Spirit. As our soul is renewed (our emotional baggage healed and our thought life restructured to think as the Lord does), we can more easily distinguish between soul and spirit.
3. *Find places of stillness.* The Bible says to *“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)*. In places of stillness our soul (our thoughts and emotions) are quietened which enables us to hear the voice of the Spirit more easily.
4. *Attend to conscience.* Our conscience is the voice of our spirit. The word translated “conscience” is the Greek word “suneidesis” which means “to know with another” or “to see in one's mind with one's self”. It is a second level of awareness accompanying an awareness of an impulse, thought or act. It is the level of awareness brought from our spirit and compared to what is in our mind. Since the Lord is speaking to our spirit, our ability to understand what He is saying is determined by the state of our conscience.

Romans 2:15 - *“who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them”*

The preceding Scripture tells us that a person's conscience tells them that the law is in the heart or spirit and that this conscience ends us accusing or excusing our actions and thoughts. Conscience tells us whether what we are doing, thinking or planning in our minds is consistent with what is in our spirit. If our spirit is under the lordship of the Holy Spirit, then our conscience will be telling our minds whether it is in obedience or disobedience to the Holy Spirit. If our spirit is not under the lordship of Jesus then we cannot be sure where our conscience is getting its information from.

5. *Desire to be led.*

1 Corinthians 14:1 *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts”*

The Spirit of God lives with us (1 Corinthians 3:16) but this does not necessarily mean that the power of God is released in us. The Lord can deposit various leadings and gifts in our spirit and our personal desire is a key to receiving these things.

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6. Practice.

Hebrews 5:14 *“But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

Spiritual sensitivity develops with practice. We should ask the Lord to lead us in certain decisions or tasks that we have not previously asked to be led. Fortunately, there are other ways in which we can understand the will of the Lord that can help us to check how we have interpreted these witnesses. These include the Bible, wise counsel and prophetically oriented people

7. *Understand that there are different leadings of the Spirit.* These different witnesses feel different and they are witnessed to us to lead us in different responses. We have already seen that the Spirit witnesses to us that we are children of God (Romans 8:14-16). Other types of witness that the New Testament records are

- a. A *“green light”* (e.g. Romans 9:1) which is to go ahead with something and is generally felt as a spiritual peace or spiritual joy (Colossians 3:15)
- b. A *“red light”* (e.g. Acts 16:7) which is a leading to stop something or not to do something and is generally felt as an unrest in your spirit (2 Corinthians 2:13)
- c. A *“burden”* (e.g. Mark 7:34, 8:12) which is a leading to pray for something and is generally felt as a weight or inner sorrow
- d. A *“trouble”* (e.g. John 13:21) which is similar to a *“red light”* but is generally stronger and more persistent. Its purpose is to arrest our attention to cause us to investigate something further
- e. An *“authority”* (e.g. John 11:33,38) which feels like internal anger and whose purpose is for us to declare something into being
- f. An *“action”* (e.g. Acts 17:16-17, 18:5) which feels like we are being internally provoked and corralled into doing something

These leadings can be hard to describe, and your language and experience might be different, but hopefully you can locate your experience of the Spirit’s leadings in the above descriptions. Practically speaking, the Spirit deposits information in our Spirit, through words, pictures, visions or dreams which we interpret as thoughts through our conscience. The leadings above tell us what to do with that information. He might give us information about a certain situation, but is it for prayer, action, a warning or some other reason.

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Action points

- a. *For yourself* - Over the next month record your spiritual “feelings” and bring them back to the Lord to dialogue with Him over them.
- b. *For those you lead* – Discuss your experience of being led by the Spirit with your group and invite those you are leading to share their journeys as well. Use the points above to help them to be more attuned to the Spirit.

2. The spiritual gift of prophesy

All believers can and should understand the witness of the Spirit in a manner that we have just covered. The Bible also says that **all** believers should also desire to prophesy. Prophesying to others requires us to understand how to be led by the Spirit and to tell others what He is leading us to say.

1 Corinthians 14:1 *“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”*

The gift of prophesy is just that – a gift. We don’t just prophesy because we want to – it is a deposit from the Spirit of God to us for other people. The Bible says to desire it, and there seems to be no other pre-qualifiers, except desire.

The arena of love

The Scriptures make it clear that we should ensure that prophesy is done in love. All of the gifts should be done in love (that is, for and in the best interests of others), but prophesy is one of the gifts that the Scriptures declare it is most important. Like any ministry role, loving people as we do it has the added benefit of our gift being accepted more by others.

Revelations 19:10 *“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

As we prophesy over others, we should have the preceding Scripture in mind. It should be about who Jesus is, what He thinks about us, what He has done for us, how we connect with Him. This helps us to be more loving as we prophesy. We also increase in love as we allow the Lord to heal our past emotional fractures and build a new emotional framework that is based on what He thinks about us. Every believer, including those with prophetic gifting, minister out of a mixture of spiritual leading, experiences as well as mental and emotional frameworks. When these other frameworks dominate our expression to others, people get negatively affected. We *should* do it in love, but it is clear from 1 Corinthians 14 that people *can* prophesy without love! In leading others in the prophetic, we should build an environment of honour and encouragement.

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Those that understand the witness of the Spirit for themselves and proven to themselves and others that their understanding of these leadings is accurate, can and should, with confidence ask the Lord for words for other people. The Lord delivers these words in the same manner as we discussed in our personal leading by the Spirit. However, if the information is for other people there is also a leading to deliver it (which is the leading to take action as considered earlier). Just because the Lord gives us information about others does not necessarily mean that we should speak it out. The information may be, for example, for our learning, for prayer or to help us to relate to them more effectively.

To understand how the Lord leads us to prophesy to others, we need two essential things. Firstly, we need information from the Lord for a person or group that we know we have received spiritually. Secondly, we need a leading to speak it. To understand this leading to speak, it is helpful to more fully understand the Scriptures relating to the leading to take “action” we discussed in the first level of prophetic grace.

Acts 17:16-17 *“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.**”*

Acts 18:5 *“When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was **compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.**”*

Both of the preceding Scriptures described spiritual leadings that Paul had that resulted in him speaking. They are important to understand to help us to understand when we should speak (prophesy) the words that the Lord has given us. In the Acts chapter 17 Scripture, the Holy Spirit “provoked” (literally “sharpened alongside”) Paul’s spirit so that he spoke up. We will discuss the Acts chapter 18 Scripture in the next section. This “provoked” feeling has been otherwise described as a “bubbling up”. Perhaps the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was also describing this feeling

Jeremiah 20: 9 *“Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.*

The gift of prophesy is as the Spirit wills (1 Corinthians 12:11). It is an instantaneous impartation of information and spiritual leading that reveals the heart of God to people. We should ensure that we are spiritually and not emotionally provoked. There are certain characteristics of prophesy that we should observe when delivering these messages.

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1 Corinthians 14:3 “But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”

Prophecy reveals the heart of the Father to others and His heart is to love. Specifically, the purpose of prophecy is to

- *Edify (literally “to build a house”) so to help people to have the right foundations and building blocks to build a strong spiritual life*
- *Exhort (literally “to call near”) to call people closer to God and His purposes*
- *Comfort (literally “to relate near”) to console and encourage people.*

Prophecy should do all three of the above. As we learn to prophesy, we should examine the effects of our prophecy to see if we are accurately communicating the Father’s heart. If we are being harsh, judgemental or destructive, we should examine our own soul to understand what we believe about the Father’s attitude to people.

Action points

- a. *For yourself* – Begin (again?) to intentionally desire to prophesy. Since prophecy is for other people, ask Him when you are at church services and other church meetings. If you think you are getting an unction to speak and you are not sure, ask the Spirit to intensify that feeling of being provoked.
- b. *For those you lead* – During your times of encounter as a group, promote the idea of prophecy. Coach people as they are doing it to edify, exhort and comfort. Even if they are doing this from their own soul, encourage them that they are building people up. Remember that practice improves all the gifts

3. The body (motivational) gift of prophet

The other two levels of prophetic grace are the “body” or “motivational” prophet” whose role is to prophesy within a local church and an “ascension” or “foundational” gift whose reach and purpose extends further. We cover the ascension gift of prophet in the following section.

If you have a body gift of prophesy, you are familiar with being led by the Spirit as well as the unction to prophesy but you are also familiar with another level of prophetic unction that is perhaps well illustrated by the second verse in Acts we considered in the preceding section.

Acts 18:5 “When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was **compelled** by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.”

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Paul had a spiritual leading to testify to the Jews at Corinth and he did so for eighteen months. This word “compelled” means to “arrest” or “constrain” and describes a consistent and seemingly permanent spiritual leading to do something. People with a body gift of prophecy have a seemingly permanent “constraining” leading from the Spirit to prophesy.

Romans 12:6 *“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith”*

Every believer can be led by the Spirit of God and every believer should desire to prophesy, however there is a third level of prophetic grace as reflected in the preceding Scripture which we all do not have. This refers to a gift of prophecy that the Lord gives permanently to that person. Romans 12:3 says that “God **has** dealt” a measure of faith in this gift. We also know that a person with this gift has it permanently because they do not prophesy “as the Spirit wills” as we discussed in the preceding section, but they prophesy “in proportion to faith”. This gift of prophecy is one of a variety of gifts that the Lord gives for people to help one another. These other gifts are ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading and mercy (Romans 12:7-8). We have all of these gifts to some degree as they all represent important aspects of the Christian life. However, we have one or two at a much higher level than the others.

We do not choose what gifts that the Lord deals to us. (“are all prophets?” – 1 Corinthians 12:29). Our role is to recognise the particular grace that He puts on our lives, use it for the good of others and do what we can to develop it through spiritual impartations, learning, coaching and mentoring. Similarly, we should recognise the particular grace on others and rely on them to bring that grace to the body that we are a part of. If we are unsure of what graces are coming through us then we should consider asking the spiritual people around us as well as possibly considering a gift survey.

People with the gift of prophecy also have other gifts that influence the manner in which they deliver prophecy. For example, they may have other “body” gifts like a leadership gift so they should lead a prophetic group; they may have a teaching gift so they should produce manuals, books or blogs on the prophetic. Also, they may have other “spiritual” gifts like words of knowledge, wisdom or discernment which add to the power of their prophetic gift.

Just as those with the leadership gift have a heightened and resident ability to lead, those with a prophetic gift can prophesy **at any time**. They have an inbuilt spiritual deposit from the Lord that they can access whenever they desire (*“the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” - 1 Corinthians 14:32*). People with the body gift of prophecy can prophesy whenever they desire just as those with the body gift of mercy can show grace filled mercy whenever they desire.

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Since people with this body gift should prophesy according to their faith, it is important to understand what their faith actually is. In essence, faith is assurance in our spirit. Therefore, they should speak the words that they know are within the scope of the assurance that the Lord has deposited in their spirit. They should discern when they are starting to speak outside of that assurance and stop. It is this assurance which guides the body prophet in the words they say.

Responding to a prophetic word

Acts 21:10-13 *“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’” Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”*

The above account of the delivery of a prophetic shows that different people receive a prophetic word differently. Paul was resolved to follow the will of the Lord and already had some idea that he would suffer at Jerusalem, so he accepted the prophetic word. His friends, however, motivated by concern for Paul pleaded with him to avoid Jerusalem. Neither Paul nor his friends knew that this suffering would produce the context for him writing letters to churches which would guide the Christian faith for eternity. This passage reminds us of the importance of a correct response to a prophetic word.

If you are in a faith community then there will be people around you who have a prophetic gift and they will be led to talk to you. They might not say “thus says the Lord” or “I feel in the Spirit” but they will have words from the Lord for you. The following is some Scriptural advice on how to receive this prophecy.

- *Take it into account*

1 Thessalonians 5:20 *“Do not despise prophecies.”*

The word “despise means “make no account”. Prophecy means something! Especially from people who are recognised to be gifted that way. Understand it and see how it might apply to you. Ask the Lord what the significance is.

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- *Be encouraged*

1 Corinthians 14:3 *“he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.”*

We should allow the prophecy to have its purpose in us and to build us spiritually and emotionally. God loves us enough to get a specific word to us to do that. To guide us, to tell you that He knows everything about us and believes in us enough to have a greater future for us.

- *It doesn't mean everything*

1 Corinthians 13:9 *“For we know in part and we prophesy in part”*

Prophecy is not a solution to everything. It is not the total story of any situation. It most likely addresses one area. However, it is often the most important one for you right then. Do not immediately abandon every other piece of spiritual insight, wisdom and experience to obey a prophecy. You may later abandon your current trajectory once you have considered the prophecy with the Lord and with others.

- *Judge it by the word of God*

Hebrews 4:12 *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

If the prophetic word is opposite to the word of God, then the prophetic word is wrong. But remember that what we believe from the Bible is formed from the beliefs and experiences from the past. Sometimes the prophetic word causes us to relook at how we have interpreted the Bible. The Bible, of course, does not address the specifics of our life, but the more we understand the Lord through it and through how He related with people in it, the more we can use it as a guiding influence in our decisions. It is amazing how the words from the Bible can come alive and speak to our spirit to make it personal to our lives.

- *Judge it by your inner witness*

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

Whenever prophets speak, the others should judge. Not judge the prophet or pass critical comment on what they said, but discern by the inner witness whether their words are meant for you. If we

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are in leadership, we discern whether the words are meant for the group we lead. The prophetic word and our inner witness need to agree. Often a prophetic word is a confirmation of what God has already been witnessing to us. At other times we take the prophetic word to the Lord and ask Him to confirm or deny it to our spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

Spiritual matters, including prophetic words can't necessarily be worked out in your mind. We should receive the word into our heart through an open, teachable attitude.

- *Pray into it*

Jeremiah 27:18 *“But if they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, do not go to Babylon.”*

A prophetic word is not declaration of things that will happen for us without our involvement. A part of our response to a prophetic word should be to make intercession to the Lord with the prophetic word as Jeremiah instructed the prophets to do so in the preceding Scripture. A prophetic word is often a picture of a preferred future. It still takes the grace of God to bring it to pass. It doesn't happen all by itself. So prayer with it is always a good idea.

- *Allow it to challenge your thinking and doing*

1 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. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*

Paul tells Timothy to meditate on the prophecy and give himself to it. Confirmed prophecy should cause us to think differently about ourselves, the Lord and others. Meditation on the prophetic word helps it to go from our head to our spirit. The prophetic word should also cause us to change our actions as we are led by the Spirit into the things He chooses us to do differently.

1 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.”*

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Prophecies help us to fight the fight of faith. They are personalised and sometimes specific promises from God for us and are often given to equip us for an upcoming spiritual fight. We can fight our negative thoughts, discouragement and limited thinking with that prophetic word. Often a prophetic word can be our strongest or only weapon we have.

Action points

1. *For yourself* – Do you have a body gift of prophecy?
 - a. If you do or think you may do, seek out a similarly gifted person to help you to develop. Ask them to help you to understand and build your faith and ability to prophesy according to it
 - b. If you do not, consider the prophetic words over your life and consider how they should affect you with the points above
2. *For those you lead* – What people that you lead have a body gift of prophecy? How are they being developed? Give them some room in your meetings, planning sessions and development of others. Suggest a Stairway college course if they haven't already done it. Ask them who is helping them to develop and suggest they seek someone out or purposefully link them to someone you know is strongly prophetic. Suggest that they consider some involvement with the church's prophetic team

4. The foundational (ascension) gift of prophet

The fourth level of prophetic grace is that of “foundational” or “ascension” gift of a prophet. This gift, along with those of apostles, pastors, evangelists and teachers are often called “offices” to distinguish this level of gift with the “body” gifts we discussed earlier. In fact all gifts are “offices”, but this term has been found to be helpful to distinguish this gift from the body gift of prophet.

Like all ascension gifts, the ascension or foundational prophet is subject to development and are found in embryonic, baby, child, adolescent and adult forms. We often see this gift only in adult form where it has a high level of influence. If we have an undeveloped ascension gift then we should recognise it so we can embrace the development that goes with that gift.

An ascension gift prophet has experienced all of the 3 prophetic graces we have covered but has also been given the Lord's direction for churches, kingdom business, missions and other kingdom ventures. They couple that grace with a place of agreed leadership with apostolically gifted people to set the framework for the expansion of the kingdom.

- *Calling to the prophetic and other gifts*

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Even though the New Testament prophetic gift differs from the role of the Old Testament prophet, we can still learn from the journey of Old Testament prophets. Whether we are strongly gifted in the prophetic or another gift, we can learn from Jeremiah's calling

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

Our calling is already set, our role is to find and follow it. We do not have to create it

Jeremiah 1:6 *"Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, **I cannot speak**, for I am a youth."*

We often give the Lord reasons why we can't follow our calling – whether it is self-doubt, financial or other reasons. We should bring all of our concerns to Him.

Jeremiah 1:7-8 *"But the LORD said to me: "**Do not say**, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD.*

The Lord is always ready to reassure and encourage us of His calling. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is a convincer (John 16:8) and so we should ask Him to convince us of what He has called us to do.

Jeremiah 1:9-10 - *"Then the LORD put forth His hand and **touched my mouth**, and the LORD said to me "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, **I have this day set** you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant."*

Our effectiveness in fulfilling our calling relies on ongoing impartations ("touched my mouth") and prophetic direction ("see I have")

If you feel you have the ascension gift of prophet, then you should first of all discover where and who the Lord has called you to lead. His calling is a combination of the "what" (his aims for you), the "how" (the grace He has given you) and the "where/who" (the arena he has called you to contribute to). We are all called to be ascension gift prophets to our own lives, some to our families, some to groups, some to businesses, some to missions groups, occasionally to our church and even fewer to the wider body of Christ. No matter what role we are called to, there are certain features of the foundational prophet that we should be aware of:

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1. They partner with apostolically gifted people

1 Corinthians 12:28 *“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets”*

Apostles and prophets are closely linked in the Scripture. Prophets hear from the Lord and apostles put that hearing into action. It's not that an apostle can't hear from the Lord, it's just that their main grace is in another area. Therefore we shouldn't / can't be an ascension prophet in isolation. There is no point hearing without a corresponding action. So these prophets should seek to build relationships with those driving the actions of the kingdom expressions that the prophet is called to.

2. They equip the saints

Ephesians 4:11-12 *“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. “*

In this equipping role, the prophet helps others to more clearly understand the witness of the Spirit as well as the unction to prophesy. They impart the anointing and gifts of prophesy through what they say and through the laying on of hands. Like all of the ascension gifts, they are not meant to do all the work of prophesy, but to equip others to do so

3. They set the foundation of kingdom ventures

Ephesians 2:19-22 *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*

These prophets work with apostles to build communities of people who carry the presence of God. Because these prophets and apostles set the foundation of spiritual enterprises with Jesus as the cornerstone, it is important that those operating in these prophetic gifts have a strong relationship with the Lord and accountability to the apostolic gifted people they are partnering with. Prophets and apostles together determine the direction of kingdom ventures which affect all those people who are then built into the venture. They also ensure that the building is built so that the Spirit dwells in it.

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4. They may predict the future

Acts 11:27-28 *“And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.*”

5. They may act symbolically

Acts 21:10-11 *“And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’”*”

Action points

1. For yourself -
 - a. As a leader, familiarise yourself with the prophetic words over the church. Discuss with others and understand how they influence the activities of your group
 - b. If you or any group member are showing signs of having a gift of ascension prophet, connect them with those already recognised to have this gifting
2. For those you lead -
 - a. Ensure that people in your group are aware of the prophetic word’s that are delivered to the church by recognised ascension gift prophets. Make sure to send them the weblink to those messages. Discuss these words with your group and decide how they are relevant for your group and what action you need to take as a result.