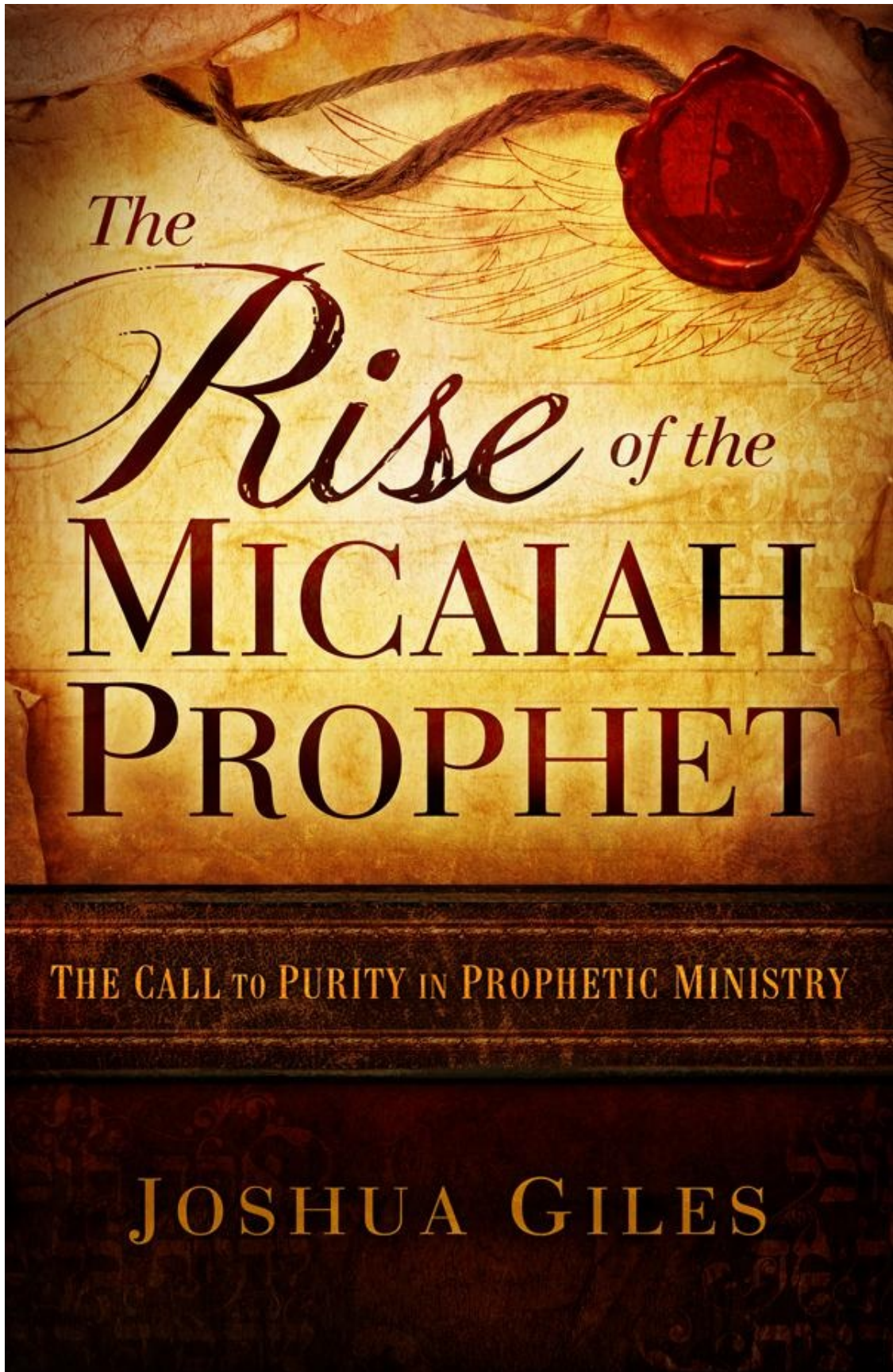


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PROPHET**

THE CALL TO PURITY IN PROPHETIC MINISTRY

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JOSHUA GILES

# The Rise of the Micaiah Prophet: A Call to Purity in Prophetic Ministry

by Joshua Giles

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**Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

**—Amos 3:7**

God began speaking

to me in preparation for the New Year 2020. He said that there would be a global economic collapse that would hit every world system. The Lord said, “There are new markets that are about to be birthed. You are going to see new technology arise from this. After it runs its course, there will be an economic resurgence.”

God has been speaking to prophetic voices for a while now, about what the next phase will be and what we are going to see in the earth. Even as I write this, we are in a season of racial unrest, political transition, economic collapse, and a global pandemic in the form of COVID-19. I can say from a prophetic perspective, this is nothing new. This crisis took the world by surprise. Many in the body of Christ were even thrown off course. However, God was not taken by surprise and neither were His prophets—those who are focused on God and have an ear to hear what the spirit of the Lord is saying. The Bible tells us in Amos 3:7, that God will do nothing unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. I’m so excited to be just a part—one small part—of hearing and delivering what God is speaking and doing in this hour.

Many authentic prophets have been so intoxicated with the cares of this life that

they have missed God in key areas, thus making room for false prophets to infiltrate. Jesus made it clear that we would always have false prophets. When true prophets take their place, we will begin to see the kingdom of God rise and be established even more. During crisis periods, it is very easy for us to get into debates and arguments with others. But as the remnant of God we are to exhibit the fruit of the spirit. I believe we are in a time where the fruit of the spirit will be tested like never before. The Lord will allow your fruit to be tested to prove what is in you. During this time of extreme testing we will begin to see the emergence a remnant of believers who bear the fruit of the spirit, walk in love, and know who they are in Christ. Among that remnant of believers will be a powerful, mature, and uncompromised company of prophets who know the voice of their God. We will witness the rise of the Micaiah prophet.

The account of the prophet Micaiah is found in 1 Kings Chapter 22 and 2 Chronicles Chapter 18. Micaiah was a disciple of the prophet Elijah and contemporary of Elisha during the rulership of the wicked King Ahab. He was known as a fearless and uncompromising prophetic voice in the face of manipulative and corrupt leadership. In 1 Kings 22:13–14, Micaiah is summoned by King Ahab to deliver a prophecy regarding going into battle with King Jehoshaphat against Ramoth-gilead:

“And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.”

Prior to Micaiah’s arrival, King Ahab’s hired prophets assured him victory in battle, but Micaiah declared that he would only speak the word of the Lord! We are living in a time of separation where God is drawing a line in the sand distinguishing between false prophets and true prophets of God. We will be able to clearly identify a Micaiah company of prophets who will know the voice of the Lord and speak whatever He tells them to say, even if 400 purchased and lying prophets are saying something different. The Lord is now shifting the structure of the church and he is about to elevate those who have answered the call to prayer and intercession.

Throughout the past several decades, prophetic ministry has been front and center in Christendom. The insatiable thirst for foreknowledge has created a

vacuum that has been filled with many things. The urgency for direction, information, instruction, and spiritual insight has created a demand for the emergence of new prophetic voices. We have seen prophets rise to great heights and experience extreme lows. We have seen a rise of true and authentic prophets, but there has also been and insurgence of false prophets.

This book is designed to address the gray areas of the prophetic; the difference between what is true and what is false. What happens when there are true prophets with wrong motives? What happens when there are false prophets with very accurate but deceptive prophetic words? What happens when there is an uprising of saved prophets with fleshly desire for material possession? What happens when there are rejected prophets who perform the prophetic only for the applause of man? These scenarios indicate that there needs to be a purifying of the prophetic. There must be a standard!

If prophetic ministry is not purified, the church at large will experience a grave deficit and a decline. The central focus of New Testament prophets is to direct people to Jesus Christ, as well as to bring hope, encouragement, reproof and correction. The Bible says, “For the testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10).” True prophetic ministry should embody the life and character of Christ.

This is the church’s finest hour. I’m telling you! This time will be remembered as one of the greatest moments in the history of the church. The sleeping giant is waking up! God’s remnant is waking up!

## Chapter 1

### The Need for Prophetic Ministry

**And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.**

**—Ephesians 4:11**

Prophetic ministry is

essential to the work of presenting Jesus Christ to the world, yet it is the most misunderstood gift to the body of Christ, having often been abused, misused, and widely rejected.

*So what exactly is a prophet and what has a prophet been called to do?*

The term prophet comes from the Hebrew word nabiy'. It means a spokesman. A spokesman is a person who makes statements on behalf of an individual or group. Therefore, the prophet is a spokesman on behalf of God. God has set up a divine order on the earth where He always uses people to do His will. The Hebrew root word for prophet is naba and it means to prophesy or speak under the influence of divine spirit (Spirit of God). In its simplest terms a prophet hears the voice of God and speaks God's instructions and directions to the people. The ministry of a prophet can be vast in scope and nature. Prophets are given different assignments and tasks but the principle call of the prophet does not change. Prophets are responsible for relaying the heart and mind of God to people. Seasoned and mature prophets speak as God in the earth. For this reason, the process, development and course that prophets must go through is rigorous and grueling.

All prophets are assigned to a geographical location, a demographic, people group, or sphere of influence. They carry a specific anointing, a mantle that they are prepared for, and a system within the world that they must help to govern. Prophets are complex and multidimensional. This unique ministry gift has been created this way intentionally to accomplish the will of God in the earth. Prophets are auditory and visual because they must express the heart, mind, and emotions of God to His people.

First Samuel 9:9 explains says, “Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to enquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer.” Hence, prophets have been given the divine ability to see in the spirit. This ability of divine sight is not governed by time. This means that a prophet may see into the past, present or future of an individual, group, or place. Seer in the Hebrew is the word Ra’ah. This word means to look at, inspect, and perceive. In addition, it means to watch, look upon, discern, distinguish, and to have vision. It denotes seeing beyond what is visible to the natural eye. Prophets have been given hindsight, insight, and foresight. They see into the past, present and future.

Hindsight is the understanding of a situation after it has happened or developed. This type of sight expresses the ability to see the past. Through words of knowledge prophets often see what has happened in someone’s life. When God reveals this to a prophet, often times it is to bring healing, closure, or enlightenment on a past situation. In my opinion, hindsight is lesser of the three types of sight. Although a prophet can see what has already taken place he or she should not dwell there. The main assignment of the prophet is to foresee.

Next, there is insight. Insight is the capacity to gain an accurate and deep intuitive understanding of a thing or person. Therefore, insight expresses the ability to see what is happening now. This type of sight deals with the present. A prophet may see what is happening now in an individual’s life, among a group of people, or even within the government. These examples represent different levels of sight. For instance, you may have insight concerning an individual. That is a base level of sight. Another prophet may have insight concerning the governmental system, representing a higher level of sight. Prophets are graced in different areas, spheres, and levels of sight.

Additionally, God has given his prophets foresight. This is the main type of sight that is seen throughout the scriptures. Foresight is the ability to predict what will

happen in the future. To foresee is to see an account before it happens. The prophets of God were widely used in both the Old Testament and New Testament, to foretell what was going to take place on the earth. They would also give instructions concerning what was going to be needed in a particular situation. Of course, this type of sight expresses God's ability to see the future.

Amos 3:7 says, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secrets unto his servants the prophets." Wow, this scripture really reveals the heart of God concerning his prophets! The first thing that I notice from this scripture is the word 'secrets'. God does nothing unless he reveals his secrets to his prophets. Secret comes from the Hebrew word *çôwd*. One of the meanings of this word is intimacy with God. Intimacy denotes closeness or friendship. God only reveals his heart to his friends. As a prophet, I can say that I am called to a friendship with God first, before anything else. Anyone can have a gift to foretell the future, but not everyone will come into friendship with God. Remember that God reveals secrets to his friends, so it is important for you to cultivate an intimate friendship with God.

Another key word from Amos 3:7 is the word servants. In the Hebrew it is the word *'ebed*, which is also translated, 'worshippers of God'. This tells me that prophets have been called to minister to God through worship. Prophetic ministry is vital to the church to create atmospheres of worship and powerful decrees that cause breakthrough. Prophets are also needed in the world as a sign and wonder to those who don't believe in Jesus. True prophetic ministry testifies of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:10).

## Chapter 2

### Discerning Divination and Familiar Spirits

Throughout the ages,

there has been an increased desire to experience the supernatural realm. To accommodate this desire and compensate for the lack of demonstration of the power of God, many local church assemblies have lowered their standard, opening the door to a form of godliness. This has caused the church to turn its focus from character, integrity, and righteousness in spiritual gifts to focus on accuracy, skill, and performance. Although it is important to have accuracy when operating in the gifts, we must have the foundation of integrity and truth to truly operate in the Spirit of God. Oftentimes those who are anointed by God to operate in apostolic and prophetic ministries attract familiar spirits and people with spirits of divination.

A familiar spirit is a demon that channels through an individual, passing spiritually illegal information from the spirit world into the natural world. The most deceptive thing about this exchange is that the information may be accurate, but the source is demonic.

The phrase familiar spirit comes from the Hebrew word 'owb. It is one who invokes the dead or one who comes in the spirit of another. A familiar spirit surveils people, gathers familial or familiar information and then channels that information through a host. In the New Testament we see this very spirit on display in Acts 16:16–18, where it is referred to as a spirit of divination.

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.” And this she did for many days.



But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

The words of the Lord were proclaimed boldly through the prophet in Ezekiel 12:24, “For there shall be no more any vain vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.” Divination is a form of enchantment or witchcraft. It is a practice that God despises. The spirit of divination mimics true prophecy. It is a counterfeit of the true prophetic gift. Divination seeks or obtains knowledge of the future by a source other than the Holy Spirit. When the prophetic is compromised, the spirit of divination is given access. This spirit gives an individual the ability to maintain accuracy of the gift, but the prophet’s character is destroyed and the person’s heart is far from God. The spirit of divination may cause the individual to speak things that are true and accurate, from a source that is not the Holy Spirit. As a prophet, it is your responsibility to make sure that the only spirit that has access to your life is the Holy Spirit.

The woman possessed with the spirit of divination followed Paul and those who were with him. Those that have the spirit of divination are often attracted to the true prophetic anointing. Spirits of divination like to follow behind true prophets in order to gain power and insight. Those who have this spirit will often interrupt services so that their voice can be heard. The damsel that followed Paul could have easily been mistaken as an authentic prophetic voice because of the truth she was speaking. In fact, it took Paul several days before he even discerned that it was a spirit of divination.

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

—Acts 16:18

The Greek word for divination is puthon. This is where the English word python is derived. The Greeks believed that this was the name of the serpent or dragon that dwelt in the region of pytho that guarded and protected the oracle. The spirit

of python will always guard the spirit of divination and often inflicts harm on those who oppose the diviner. Pythons are ambush predators that remain motionless in a camouflaged state until they are ready to strike their prey. They kill their prey by a process called constriction, applying sufficient pressure; the python suffocates its prey.

It takes the power of God to break through divination and the spirit of python. Isaiah 44:25, says “[I am the Lord] That frustrateth the tokens of liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish.” The words of the diviners cannot stand against the words of God spoken through true prophets.

The spirits of divination have crept into the church under the guise of the current prophetic movements in America and abroad. Those who operate in this spirit give precise words, move in supernatural miracles, but the end result and the fruit is destruction. The spirit of divination is an ambush spirit that seeks to destroy churches, homes, families, and ultimately uproot people out of salvation.

If there is perpetual uncleanness present in the vessel that God has chosen to use, the anointing, gift, and character can become contaminated. Jesus commonly encountered and addressed unclean spirits throughout His journey in the New Testament. Unclean spirits have an assignment against mankind. This assignment manifests in FOUR main ways in the lives of people. Unclean spirits are released specifically into the earth realm to infect people. The only effective weapon against unclean spirits is cleansing through the blood of Jesus. Through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ we are given the ability to become cleansed of our sins. The only way that you can ensure that no unclean spirit has access to you is by preserving and protecting cleanliness. Maintaining spiritual cleanliness comes from obeying the word of the Lord and allowing it to wash you every day.

One way that an unclean spirit can manifest in your life is through sickness. Sickness is so common today that people don't realize it can be the result of an unclean spirit crippling their health. The word of God solidifies this truth:

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and

from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

—Luke 6:17–19

Within verse 18 is a powerful revelation. The verse shows that unclean spirits vexed the people and manifested themselves through disease and sickness. When the unclean spirits were cast out of the people, they were HEALED! Unclean spirits bring about vexation. Vexation is a state of strong fear, frustration, annoyance, or heaviness. If you experience constant infirmities, fear, frustration or even heaviness, it could be a sign that an unclean spirit has gained access to your soul or body (See Acts 5:16). Sickness itself is unclean. When a person is sick it means that there is something within the body that is unclean. It is literally as if there is poison in the body. Prophetic voices that operate in uncleanness can literally spread sickness in the assemblies that they minister.

However, there is a remedy. Matthew 10:1 says, “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” As believers and as prophets you have been given authority over unclean spirits! You can rid them from your soul. You have the power to dispel unclean spirits and release healing to your body.

Unclean spirits can also manifest as perversion. This means that by gaining access to one’s soul they can alter it from its original course or state. Perversion is a distortion or corruption of what was first intended. Unclean spirits seek to pervert or distort the first (original) plan of God for your life. These spirits can manifest through abnormal sexual behavior such as spirits of strong lust, homosexuality, sexual obsession, and anything of the like.

Revelations 16:13 “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.”

In the above passage, the unclean spirits showed up in the form of frogs. They showed up in this form because of what frogs represent. Most frogs are

characterized by webbed fingers, a short body, and protruding eyes. It is their call that makes them most noticeable. It can be heard most often during mating season. It has been discovered that there are some frogs that can completely change their reproductive system in order to mate with the same sex. This goes against the natural order of things; it is perverse. In addition, many frogs carry with them toxins that make them unpalatable. The type of frog determines which form of poison it contains. The toxins and poisons in frogs may vary from hallucinogens to irritants, convulsants, and nerve poisons.

By observing the various toxins of frogs, we see how unclean spirits seek to adversely affect you:

**Hallucinogen:** A chemical agent causing changes in perception, emotion, thought, and consciousness. Hallucinogens can induce abnormal experiences such as tormenting trances or dreams. It can alter reality by causing those influenced to see things that are not really there or even perceive or hear things that are opposed to truth.

**Irritant:** A substance that causes slight inflammation or discomfort to the body (Oxford). A thing that is continually annoying or distracting. An irritant is something that prevents one from giving their full attention to something.

**Convulsant:** A chemical agent that causes contortion of the body caused by violent, involuntary muscular contractions of the extremities or head. Convulsants induce violent agitation, disturbances, and commotion.

**Nerve Poisons:** A potentially lethal chemical that interferes with the transmission of impulses from nerves. Nerve poisons disrupt the nervous system by inhibiting its ability to function properly.

The spirit of the frog has an assignment to destroy and infect prophets and prophetic people. These spirits set traps of entanglement against the soul and project contaminants that infiltrate spiritual gifts. This perversion can cause prophets to stray from God. Prophets that are infiltrated no longer speak truth but release false words. Their prophecies are laced with seducing words of enticement. There is no more power in them! The only way to defeat these unclean spirits and maintain a life that is clean and pure before the Lord is to utilize the exousia (power) of Jesus Christ according to Matthew 10:1. When your life is pure, then the enemy has no possible way to gain access. It is

impossible for unclean spirits to dwell in vessels that are clean and filled with the Word and Spirit of God.

The word unclean means dirty, soiled, polluted, and filthy. Another way that unclean spirits can manifest in people is through filth. There is an old saying, “cleanliness is next to godliness.” Demon spirits, specifically unclean spirits love filth. They like to hang around filthy places. A sign that unclean spirits could be influencing your soul is if there is constant filth around you. Is your natural house filthy and you just can’t seem to keep it cleaned? That is an indication of a much deeper problem. It is an issue of the soul. What is in your soul will manifest in your house. Proverbs 16:2 says, “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.” The word weigh in the Hebrew is *takan*. It means to regulate, measure, estimate, ponder, and balance. I admonish you to open up your heart. Give the Lord access to your spirit and soul so that He might regulate, measure, and estimate, to see if you are clean. If the Spirit searches your heart to find that you are not clean, then you have the opportunity to humble yourself, repent and ask for forgiveness. In the words of David, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

An unclean spirit could be manifesting in your life without you knowing it. The book of Proverbs reveals that a wise man seeks to know what is in his heart. It is your God-given responsibility to allow the Holy Spirit to search out your heart! Unclean spirits can also manifest in the form of clutter. Clutter is a collection of things lying about in an untidy mass (Oxford). Clutter occurs when unnecessary influences crowd the soul. The word clutter originates from Middle English and was a variant of *clotter* [to clot] and influenced by the word *cluster*. Unclean spirits gather in clusters. They like to work in packs.

If unclean spirits are influencing you, you are likely to see several manifestations. Remove the unclean spirits from your life by removing the clutter from your soul and your house.

Another type of demonic spirit that targets prophetic streams and movements are what the Bible calls, evil spirits. The first place we see the word evil in the Bible is in the book of Genesis. It is shown as the opposite of good. Genesis reveals that when God created all living things, He saw that they were good. The Hebrew word for good means pleasing and properly functioning. Good carries the Hebraic concept of functional. When God created He saw that things were

functioning as they should. If good means functional, then by reasoning, evil means dysfunctional. The definition of dysfunctional is “not performing normally, as an organ or structure of the body; malfunctioning, having a malfunctioning part or element.”

When prophetic movements, streams, or churches are contaminated they can become dysfunctional, meaning there is a part or element of the body that is malfunctioning. This is the assignment behind evil spirits and why they seek out prophetic movements. These evil spirits know that if they can infiltrate modern day prophetic culture, then they can stop the effectiveness of true, authentic prophetic ministries.

In the Greek language the word evil has more than one component and is multifaceted. It is slightly different from our 21st century English meaning of evil. It comes from the Greek root word ponos, meaning intense desire, great trouble, and pain. In the Old Testament there are several occasions in which the Scripture says God sent an evil spirit (See Judges 9:23, 1 Samuel 16:14, 1 Samuel 18:10). God would only allow the evil spirits to inflict those that had turned from Him or were in direct disobedience to His will. For example, Saul had completely turned from God and would no longer obey Him. For this reason, God sent an evil spirit to Him. An evil spirit is one that has the assignment to inflict pain, torment (physically and mentally), and cause trouble.

Furthermore, the meaning of the word evil is the Greek word poneros. It means full of labors, annoyances, hardships, pressed and harassed by labors, bringing toils and perils. These are the manifestations of evil spirits. They spiritually harass their victims bringing them into hardships and creating serious and immediate danger for them. Evil spirits can bring torment and cause emotional and mental damage to the mind. Believers can be bound by evil spirits if access is given through sin or doors of the soul opened to them knowingly or unknowingly. If individuals are bound by evil spirits, there is not only a need for deliverance, but also healing. Deliverance and healing go hand-in-hand. Luke 8:2 says, “And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils.” Here the scripture reveals that Mary Magdalene had seven devils cast out of her, but she also had to be healed of the evil spirits. The Greek word for heal is therapeuo, meaning to cure and restore to health. Because evil spirits damage the soul, there is a need for restoration to take place after an encounter with them.

God wants to move in powerful ways in the Body of Christ at large. We are even gearing up for revival and awakening like we have never seen before in America and all over the nations of the world. Because of this, the Holy Spirit is beginning a process of pruning throughout the Body of Christ. God is evaluating ministries, mandates, and mantles in order to realign us for purpose. One of the enemies that we must contend with that wants to hinder this great prophetic outpouring is seducing spirits.

First Timothy 4:1 reveals that in the latter times there would be some that depart from the faith because they give heed to seducing spirits. Most people hear of seducing spirits and automatically associate it with something sexual. That is not always the case, although it can be. Oxford American Dictionary defines seduce as, “to attract to a belief or into a course of action that is inadvisable or foolhardy.” Seducing spirits target your belief system. What you believe determines what you do in life and the course of your destiny. The enemy will use seducing spirits to alter what you believe. As a follower of Jesus Christ your beliefs should be firmly rooted in the Word of God and your decisions should reflect what you believe. The mind is the most powerful tool that human beings have been given because it houses the belief system. In order to protect yourself from seducing spirits, your mind has to be continually renewed.

How do seducing spirits operate? “They vex you with their wiles” (Numbers 25:18). Seducing spirits fight your mind in order to deceive and to cause you to believe a lie. A wile is a system of interwoven lies.

These wiles become active and dangerous when they are hurled like arrows at your mind. If the enemy can get you to believe one lie, then he can deceive you with another because one lie is connected to another lie. The lies range from, “It’s okay if you sin a little” to “God understands if you have to give in and satisfy your flesh.” The door to seducing spirits is compromise. The moment you compromise your values and godly beliefs, then seduction of the mind begins. Seduction of the mind is the superimposition of diabolical thoughts and images upon the will, emotions, intellect, imagination and all faculties of the mind.

Wiles are “devious stratagems employed in manipulating or persuading someone to do what one wants” (Oxford). Seducing spirits fight with devious stratagems. A stratagem is a cunning plan or scheme. Seducing spirits will plan out and manipulate events and situations in order to get a desired reaction out of its victim. This is done to gain access. Certain words spoken or even actions taken

give seducing spirits access to your soul. Guard what you say and do; make sure that you are in line with the Word of God. Ephesians 6:11 admonishes all of us with these words, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The only way to firmly stand up against the wiles of the devil is to put on the whole armor of God that protects you entirely.

You must realize that seducing spirits have ONE main objective, which is to cause you to depart from the FAITH. The goal of this spirit is to turn your heart away from God. This does not happen all at once. Little by little spirits of seduction plead their cause in your mind until you fully accept it. In order to defeat seducing spirits, you must withstand and reject the wiles of the devil.



### Chapter 3

#### Strange Fire

**And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.**

**—Leviticus 10:1–2**

In the Old

Testament, the congregation or people could not offer up sacrifices for repentance or thanksgiving to God without a priest. Aaron was chosen by God to be the high priest and within his lineage would be the priesthood. His sons were raised up and trained in the Levitical priesthood order. They were given specific instructions on how to entreat the God of Israel and to conduct themselves within the presence of the Lord. The account of their mishandling of the sacrifice is referenced both in Leviticus 10 and Numbers 3. The Bible tells us that Nadab and Abihu took censers and put fire in them and offered to God strange fire. The Hebrew definition for strange is profane. They made an irreverent and disrespectful sacrifice before the Lord. It was God's instruction that whenever the priests would offer up sacrifices the fire of the Lord would come down out of the most holy place and consume the sacrifice. It was the fire that only the glory and presence of God produced that was permitted to be used. Nadab and Abihu took common, regular, earthly fire and put it in their censers. The pure and holy

fire was a representation of the consuming fire of God and the common fire was a representation of the effort and work of man.

The difference between the pure and the impure is that the impure operates by the flesh (effort or work of man). God's desire is to raise up people that are not substituting His supernatural ability for their own work and effort. There is a fire that only the presence of God can produce in the life of one who is in relationship with Jesus Christ. And that fire ignites passion; a willingness to give and suffer for the thing that you love. Here are some doorways to producing strange (common) fire:

Disobedience to the instructions of the Lord

An unwillingness to suffer for righteousness

Being gift-led instead of spirit-led

Love of money

Lust

Self-serving

Pride

It's important that you protect the prophetic anointing on your life from strange fire. We must learn to guard our prophetic movements from this disastrous phenomenon. In my personal experience, I've seen movements that started off well with Jesus being the focus and center of their meetings. Then, eventually the gifts, signs, wonders, and miracles became the focus. Of course, I wholeheartedly believe in God's supernatural ability. I've seen God perform countless miracles and I have even seen Him bring people back from death. However, signs and wonders should follow us. Believers should not seek after the sign and the wonder. When this becomes the focal point of one's prophetic message, it is dangerous. Jesus found this in his own earthly ministry. There were multitudes following after him. He healed the sick and multiplied fish and loaves for the masses. They were enamored with the supernatural performance but they didn't want His heart, His teaching and His ways. Jesus addressed them and said "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up the last day" (John 6:54). The disciples (the masses) heard this and complained. They said that Jesus was asking them to do something very hard. Obviously Jesus wasn't referring to cannibalism. He was referring to partaking of His covenant through being indoctrinated with His teaching, and suffering for His cause. John 6:66 says, "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

The prophetic process is a journey. It is a covenant with Jesus; it is to believe His ways and to allow His Spirit to fully express the mind, will, and intent of God through individuals. Without covenant, obedience, and right alignment with God the prophetic expression becomes contaminated. Earlier in this chapter, I mentioned the sons of Aaron that offered up strange fire before the Lord. You can view strange fire as a contaminated expression of the prophetic. Under the law it was customary that the priests offered up sacrifices on behalf of the people. In prophetic ministry, prophets express God's voice and word to His people and often intercede on behalf of others. When a prophet's spiritual responsibilities are mishandled, it can damage people. Prophets have to handle and manage fire. Fire can either purely consume and emit sacrifices of praise and worship before the Lord or fire can destroy and kill. Let's compare the natural properties of fire and their spiritual significance.

Fire naturally has several purposes in relationship to people. First, fire is a source of natural heat. Long before there were electrical heating systems, people

used fire for comfort and to regulate and warm the body during harsh winters. Another purpose for fire is light. Light is the illumination and the energy needed in order to see clearly. In addition, for centuries fire has been used to form and shape mechanical instruments, cook with, clear forests, and as a source of power. The same way that fire works for the natural benefit of people, it is an element that can also benefit people spiritually.

In Scripture, even God is described as a Consuming Fire! Deuteronomy 4:24 says, “For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.” He is our comfort, our guiding light in the word, and our purifier. The phrase consuming fire is connected to Shekinah. It is the glory of the Lord manifested through visible fire and smoke. It is only the consuming fire of the Holy Ghost that can counter and overcome strange fire. God releases His consuming fire to burn away any impurities within His people. This includes wrong motives, sin, iniquity, and anything that separates us from the love of God. As a prophet or prophetic person you should pray regularly for the consuming fire of God to come upon your life, family, and ministry. Take heed and know that when you pray this prayer, things in your life will manifest in order to show you the things inside of you that are not like God. These tares must come up to the surface so that they can be cleansed.

## Chapter 4

### True Prophets vs. False Prophets

**Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits . . .**

**—Matthew 7:15–16**

The word of

God is the measuring stick by which we qualify true prophecy. In Matthew 7:15–18, Jesus says, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruit. Do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Even so, every good tree brings forth good fruit, but a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.” Right away, we are provided with a standard by which to judge every prophet and every prophetic word, and it is by the fruit that is produced through the individual. To further clarify the difference between true prophets and false prophets, let’s take a look at a few different categories of prophets.

## **Authentic Prophets**

The first category of prophets is authentic prophets. Authentic prophets are mature, processed, and seasoned, prophetic voices. These are those prophets who God has put his stamp of approval upon. They have a legitimate gift and calling, and they walk in the office of a prophet. Please understand, any believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit can prophesy and operate in any of the nine gifts of the spirit. Therefore, having a gift of prophecy does not make you a prophet. You may be able to accurately give a word of wisdom or a word of knowledge, but that does not make you a prophet. Prophecy is foretelling, which means to speak of what is to come. When you prophesy, you are speaking something that has not yet happened and has yet to take place. Men and women who are called to the office of a prophet speak on behalf of God.

Surely the Lord G

od

will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

—Amos 3:7

One key attribute of an authentic prophet of God is having a servant's heart. We see in the book of Amos chapter three that the Lord reveals His secret counsel to His prophets who are also servants. It is very important for us to understand that prophets must be servants first. God trusts revelation of His next move with those prophets who are humble and given to service. I want you to catch this! We are called to serve the body of Christ, not to be served by the body. Over the past decade or two, many of us have gotten this thing a little confused. We have assumed that being a prophet means that people are then called to serve us and wait on us hand-and-foot. That is not the divine order of God.

The office of the apostle and prophet are foundation gifts. In a house or any other physical building, the foundation is laid to provide structure, but it is also the expectation that the foundation is meant to be walked on. Such is the case for foundational ministry gifts; it is the expectation that the apostolic and prophetic office is to provide structure and support to God's people. We are called to bear the weight of the body of Christ, not for the body to bear our weight.

Authentic prophets are called to be servants to the body of Christ through the ministry of prophecy, but also through prayer and intercession. Our first ministry should be on our face before God standing in the gap on behalf of other people. And I want to make this clear: If we are ambitious about going after platforms and microphones, but are not pursuing the presence of God, something is wrong. Jeremiah 23:18 says it this way, “For who hath stood in the counsel of the Lord

, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?” In other words, Jeremiah is saying: “These prophets have been prophesying, but who had stood in the council of God? Who has stood in the council of God to hear the deliberations of heaven? Who has stood in the council of God to hear and to understand what it is that God is speaking so that you can hear it and then bring it before the people?”

To walk in the office of an authentic prophet who speaks on behalf of God, it is very important to stand in the council of the Lord. Those who stand in the council of God, abide with Him in a place of prayer and consecration to hear from Him. There is a very dangerous thing going on in our time where we’ve got a lot of people that have been speaking on behalf of God, who have not gone into prayer to hear the heartbeat of God and to pick up the burden of Christ through prayer. The Lord is now calling his prophets back to a place of prayer; positioned to stand in His council before we open our mouth to say anything, stand behind the pulpit, or get on social media to speak on behalf of God. And if the Lord doesn’t speak, then we better be quiet. If the Lord doesn’t say anything, then we ought not to speak anything.

Authentic prophets are mature, which means they have been processed and seasoned by God. There are many processes when it comes to prophetic ministry; long wilderness seasons where your character is tested and gutted out. Luke 4:1 tells us that even Jesus was driven into the wilderness by the Holy Ghost to be tested of the devil. Through this time of testing, a prophet’s character and commitment are tried by fire. A prophetic ministry that is tried and purified through testing is an authentic prophetic ministry you can trust.

Authentic prophets also understand and value accountability. They understand the importance of having spiritual fathers to speak into their lives to offer correction and wise counsel. These prophets know the greater the gift, the

greater the need for spiritual accountability.

## **Immature Prophets**

The second category of prophets is immature prophets. Immature or developing prophets are those who have been called but they have not gone through training or processing. We can see this in the life of Samuel. Samuel was dedicated to the service of the Lord by his mother Hannah before his birth. First Samuel 3:7 says, “Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.” This is such a revelatory passage to me. Though Samuel served the Lord from his youth, he did not yet know Him and had not learned to discern His voice. Samuel’s level of development is further illustrated in 1 Samuel 3:1–7.

The Bible tells us that God called the name of Samuel three times in one night. However, Samuel did not recognize the voice of the Lord, but instead thought it was his aging mentor Eli who was calling him. When you are learning the voice of the Lord, He will often sound like your pastor or perhaps your father; whoever it is who mentors you spiritually and speaks into your life.

We can also see an example of an immature prophet through the account of the dreamer Joseph. Genesis 37:2 says that Joseph was a young man, referring to his age, but also his lack of maturity. When he received prophetic dreams from the Lord, he immediately went and told his family. He said, “God is going to raise me up and you’ll bow before me.” If you grew up in a family similar to that of Joseph or mine, you can understand why that announcement may not go over too well. If I had ever tried to tell my father, “You all are going to bow before me,” I wouldn’t be among the living, today! In Joseph’s immaturity, he had not yet learned when to reveal a prophetic dream or insight, and it incited jealousy in his brothers. Joseph is a boy at this stage. The word boy in this passage of scripture is the Hebrew word *naar*, which means ignorant, underdeveloped, and emotionally immature. Although Joseph received dreams from the Lord, he was still emotionally immature. It is very dangerous for an emotionally immature prophet to be pushed into ministry before his time because the weight of



ministry can be a very heavy burden. A prophet who is not mature or developed enough to handle the pressure of his calling could hurt himself and others.

When we first encounter the prophet Jeremiah in scripture, he is also a young man or naar. When God called Jeremiah into ministry, he was seventeen years old; the same age Joseph was when he received dreams from the Lord. Jeremiah began to discredit himself by saying that he was not qualified to speak because he was “just a child”. But the Lord said to Jeremiah, “Do not say you are a naar.” God told Jeremiah, “Never say you are a naar. Do not ever say you are underdeveloped because I have processed you.” What does that tell us? Natural age does not compare to spiritual age. A person could be old naturally but immature spiritually, or young in the natural yet spiritually mature.

## **Presumptuous Prophets**

The third category of prophets is presumptuous prophets. In Deuteronomy 18, Moses is given the law. Deuteronomy 18:22 says, “When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.” Here, the Lord is saying, “Listen, if a prophet comes before you and prophesies something and it does not come to pass, I have not spoken to that prophet; beware of him.” The scripture indicates that a prophet who speaks without hearing from God has spoken presumptuously. This can also mean that the prophet has spoken outside of God’s timing or did not get full clarity on the word before he spoke it. Presumption is an indication of lack of training.

Many times, prophets are pressured by people to speak a word of prophecy. How many times have we seen prophets stand and speak without having a word from the Lord; however, because the people wanted it, they conjured up something? It is only through maturity and training that you get to a place, where you speak only when God gives a word and releases you to speak it. God is now drawing a line in the sand between those who are the people’s prophets and those that are prophets of God.

When we study the Old Testament we find that it was customary for kings to hire court prophets. The purpose of these prophets-for-hire was to refute the word given by the true prophets of God. Examples of these hireling prophets can be seen in Jeremiah chapter 14. A corrupt king could manipulate court prophets to say whatever he wanted to hear. If you are reading this and you are a prophet, you have got to decide what kind of prophet you want to be. Are you going to be a hireling prophet who caves under pressure and speaks when the people want it, or will you be the one who speaks on behalf of God?

The applause of man has become a drug to many. In certain preaching circuits, it is expected that prophets perform and do tricks like a circus act. But, those days are done! The Lord is tearing that mess down. God is judging this, now! Jeremiah 14:13–15 says it this way:

“Then the Lord said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. Therefore thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.”

Ten years ago, God took me through a process to train my character in the prophetic. In certain ministry circles, it is expected that after a prophet preaches, he will minister or “flow” in the prophetic. On one particular occasion, the Lord said to me, “No, today, you will not do personal prophecy.” And I said, “Well, Lord, that’s what the people want. They flew me in for this.” And the Lord said, “Who are you going to listen to? Are you going to do it because they want it or will you follow what I’m telling you to do?” Despite pressure from the people, I decided to follow the leading of the Lord. After I finished preaching, I turned the mic over to the host and said, “I’m done.” From that day forward, I learned to minister free from the pressure of people.

## **False Prophets**

The fourth category of prophets is false prophets. The first way to identify a false prophet is their information comes from a source other than the Holy Spirit. In Acts 16:16, we find Apostle Paul on a ministerial journey in which he encounters a woman possessed with a spirit of divination. The woman followed Paul and his company, proclaiming, "These are men of the Most High God." The apostle was irritated by this because when you are an authentic prophetic gift, you are irritated by what is false.

While in preparation for a time of ministry in South Africa, I received a message from my spiritual father, Bishop Tudor Bismark. He said, "You've got a challenge ahead of you because there have been so many false prophets in Africa. And they've been making the people do crazy things; making them eat grass and drink oil. Petrol. Many of these people don't even believe in the true, authentic, prophetic ministry anymore because the false has been so evident and there've been so many false prophets that have risen up that they don't even believe in true authentic ministry."

There is coming a time where there will be a showdown between the true prophets of God and the prophets of Baal. We are in that season now! It is a season where the mantle of Elijah is getting ready to be released upon the companies of prophets to deal with the false prophetic. God is restoring credibility to prophetic ministry.

The second way to identify a false prophet is that their message is person-centered rather than Christ-centered. The fruit of an authentic word from the Lord, whether preached or prophesied, is that it is centered on the message of Christ. It should not be a message to elevate ourselves, to put others on a pedestal, or build our platform for our own gain. Where there are false prophets in operation, the message is always person-centered and not Christ-centered.

Can I give you a prophetic word, today? God is bringing His body back to being Christ-centered in all that we do and all that we say. Our songs are going back to being Christ-centered songs. We've gotten to a place where we just sing anything that sounds good and has a good beat but the message of it is contrary to the word. The Lord is getting us back to Christ-centered messages and a Christ-centered way of operating within the body.

The third way to identify the false prophetic is introduction of heretical or false teaching. Second Peter 2:1 tells us, “They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Sovereign Lord who brought them.” False prophets will secretly introduce off-doctrines and teachings not founded in the word of God. The Bible tells us that any man that preaches something other than the true gospel let him be accursed (Galatians 1:9).

First Samuel 3:1 says, “And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.” One of our issues in the body of Christ is we have lost the preciousness of the word. The word must become precious to us again. We must get back to the days when God’s word and His presence are more valuable to us than anything.

## Chapter 5

### Prophetic

### Training

Every seasoned and

mature prophet must go through a series of processes that prepare him or her for the assignment, purpose, and journey ahead. The training periods for prophets can be some of the most gut-wrenching and painful times. They are often filled with isolation, reconstruction, as well as breaking periods; tearing down strongholds and old paradigms. God's intent in the training seasons is to bring about new levels of repentance, change behavioral patterns and developing an ear to hear. There are seven levels of training that are necessary for every prophet. This training is modeled after the life of Elijah and his fathering and mentoring of Elisha.

## **1. Yoke Training**

The first stage of training that Elijah put Elisha through is called yoke training. This is seen in 1 Kings 19:19–21:

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and

boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

This passage is loaded with spiritual revelations and prophetic principles. Elijah was instructed by God to anoint Elisha as the prophet in his place. Elijah throws his mantle on Elisha and the emerging prophet is then faced with the most challenging decision of his life. The casting of the mantle meant that Elijah had chosen him to serve and to follow in his footsteps. In this part of the coaching, the prophet in training must recognize the necessity of being a servant first before anything else. Prophets are called to serve, not be served!

Elisha must make the decision whether he will leave his family or turn down the senior prophet's request to serve. It can be derived from the text that Elisha was an active part of his family's very lucrative business. During that time, if a person had twelve yoke of oxen they were considered very wealthy. Elisha not only had to decide whether he should leave his family, but he was also deciding if he was going to walk away from wealth and money in order to follow the prophet.

Elisha says to Elijah, "Let me kiss my mother and father, and then I will follow you." In understanding Hebraic concepts, that phrase doesn't translate to the way we see it literally in English. In essence, Elisha was asking for more time to spend with his family before making such a life-changing decision. The twelve yoke of oxen that he was driving at the time Elijah cast the mantle on him is also prophetically significant. A yoke is a device that was placed around the neck of an ox. The yoke was then attached to another yoke that would go around the neck of another ox. As the oxen pushed forward, the attached plow would till the ground. The yoke is a symbol of bondage, commitment, suffering, and covenant. Elisha had to make a choice of what he was willing to be yoked to.

Yoke training is a period where the prophet must make the decision of what he or she is willing to let go of or walk away from in order to be yoked to God and his calling. This is not easy. The prophetic process requires that some relationships must be severed, fleshly desires given up, and life plans changed. If you are willing to give up your will for the will of the Father, then you can pass the yoke training phase. Elisha made the decision to leave his family and a lucrative business to serve the prophet Elijah.

## 2. Resistance Training

Resistance training is phrase commonly used in the exercise world. This type of training builds muscle and endurance by using resistance through body weight, dumbbells, weighted bars, bands, or other devices. Likewise, prophets must go through spiritual resistance training. Elisha was faced with this challenge in 2 Kings 2:2 (

niv

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Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the

Lord

has sent me to Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As surely as the

Lord

lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

Elijah was testing the young prophet Elisha to see his endurance and willingness to pursue the anointing and mantle that was upon his life. The senior prophet took him through a series of tests saying, “Stay here while I go there.” Each time Elisha reassured him that, “As long as the Lord God lives I will go with you wherever you go.” Elijah was using resistance with Elisha by pushing him away to build up his desire to go wherever he went. This part of the prophetic process is vital. If you are a prophet or prophetic person, God will allow you to go through this in order to develop a hunger and thirst after Him. If you want the mantle, you must pursue it. You have to develop endurance to the point that you

will not take no for an answer.

### 3. Image Training

From childhood to adulthood we are taught to develop and maintain an image. How we look and project ourselves to others is important, but sometimes it can get in the way of prophetic assignments. This stage of training is about learning to serve in spite of how you look. Image training is about tearing down the elevated self-image and allowing Christ's identity to be formed within. The main way that the Lord breaks that down is by allowing seasons of embarrassment. I'm sure that no one likes to hear that. So many years ago in the beginning of my prophetic ministry journey a prophet that was much older and seasoned shared this with me. He said, "Because the Lord will reward you openly as a prophet, he will allow you to be embarrassed openly." I didn't like the sound of that. Why would God allow this? But then I started searching through my Bible knowledge of Noah. He was building an ark for rain that had never been seen before. Surely he looked foolish to people. David was a shepherd that wasn't even considered in the line-up of his father's sons to be the next king. As I grew through my process, I realized that God may not cause the times of embarrassment, but He will use them to produce humility. All prophets must pass the test of public embarrassment. Properly handling the test of embarrassment will lead to elevation and promotion. This is reflective in the life of Elisha in 2 Kings 3:11 (

niv

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But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no prophet of the

Lord

here, through whom we may inquire of the



Lord

?” An officer of the king of Israel answered, “Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.”

Because Elisha was the servant of Elijah, he was referred to by that title. Not only that, but when Elijah would use the bathroom, Elisha was there to pour water to wash his hands. Can you imagine leaving your family and a lucrative business to be reduced to pouring water on the Man of God’s hands after he uses the bathroom? Not to mention, people are now calling you by that title: The man that pours water on Elijah’s hands. That was not a title that many would aspire to have. Elisha’s image was reduced so that God could now use him in a phenomenal way. It doesn’t matter if you are mature or developing in prophetic ministry, it is always necessary to let God reduce your image so that Christ can be seen. Because Elisha served, he was soon elevated and did double to miracles of Elijah. The prophet allowed his image to be broken that God might be exalted.

## **4. Prophetic Training**

Elisha attended the school of the prophets taught by his master Elijah. The Bible indicates that the sons of the prophets attended this school. It is believed that they would learn how to develop their spiritual gifts as seers. Elijah taught them to hear the voice of the Lord and to learn the ways of the Spirit. This is an important part of the prophetic process. Training and development are essential to the making and sustaining power of a prophet. The purpose and function of the prophet’s office is to speak on behalf of God in the earth. In order to fully function in this capacity, it requires intense pressure training to operate as a pure vessel and conduit of the Holy Spirit.

As aforementioned, the sons of the prophets were students of Elijah. The phrase “sons of the prophets” occurs eleven times in the Bible during the time of Elijah and Elisha. This term refers to a being a member of a prophetic order or guild. There were four major schools of the prophets or prophetic companies that

Elijah governed. One was located at Bethel. Bethel is an ancient place and seat of worship in Ephraim on the border of Benjamin. Its name means “House of God”. Bethel is referenced in 2 Kings 2:3: “Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I know; keep silent!’” Bethel symbolizes that prophets are to always dwell in the house of the God and to make their vessels a house for God to dwell in. Prophets must understand the sacred value of worship, reverential fear of the Lord, and prayer. These are each components of the House of God. Bethel should remind us that our first calling is to build an altar for God in our homes.

The second school of the prophets that Elijah managed was located at Jericho. This is referenced in 2 Kings 2:5. Jericho is a famous city in scripture located five miles west of the Jordan River. It is the first city conquered by the Israelites upon entering the land of promise. The name Jericho means moon or lunar cycle. It is connected to the calendar, which denotes TIME. In the prophetic training process, Jericho symbolizes that prophets are given to understand, manage, redeem, and navigate the times. Prophets are keepers of time; divine appointments, dates, and significant moments.

The third school of the prophets was in Gilgal. This is referenced in 2 Kings 2:1. The name Gilgal means circle of standing stones. Gilgal was the first place that Israel rested after Joshua and the Israelites conquered Jericho. It is also the place that Saul was anointed king. Gilgal is symbolic of memorials (a place of remembering and honoring what God has done), divine contracts, covenants and heavenly decrees. Prophets often must stand and make decrees on behalf of God in the earth. Gilgal is remembered as the place where oil was poured upon King Saul.

The fourth school of the prophets was located in Ephraim. This is referenced in 2 King 5:22. The name Ephraim means place of fruitfulness and double fruitfulness. This is an indicator of increase in wealth, opening of wombs, and productivity. Prophets are called to be fruitful by reproducing themselves in others. In addition, many prophets are given assignments to speak to economies, money systems, and currency in order to bring change.

## 5. Capacity Training

At an interesting season in my adult life the Lord instructed me to go back to college to increase my capacity and the bandwidth of my mind. I double majored in business management and psychology. I took on double the classes and workload. The experience of getting the two degrees was great but the spiritual lessons were of prime importance. Many times when the Lord wants to give you a new assignment, rank, or sphere of influence, He must first increase your workload. This is capacity building. Capacity is the maximum amount that something can contain (Oxford, 2020). If you are a prophet or a prophetic person, you must ask yourself the question: “How much can God trust me to hold?” Sometimes the assignment that God has for you requires more than your current capacity, so the Holy Spirit will stretch you to fit where you are going.

In 2 Kings 2:9–10, Elisha was at a transition point in life. He was either going to be like all of the other participants in the school of the prophets or he was going to rise to the level of greatness that he had been called to. The Bible says he asked his master Elijah a very hard question:

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

Elisha asked for a double portion of the man of Elijah’s spirit. The Elijah mantle was a massive force in the earth. Surely he was one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He helped to preserve a nation, raised the dead, performed many miracles, challenged the false prophets of his day, took on the witch Jezebel, shut up the heavens so that there could be no rain, opened the heavens to call forth rain, called down fire on his enemies and so much more. Elijah’s spirit, grace, and prophetic capacity was beyond huge, but Elisha was courageous enough to ask for double of what he had.

I believe that because of the many challenges that are facing our world, God is looking for and raising up prophets that have an assignment to carry a double portion of His Spirit and impartation. Increased capacity training can come in many forms; from pressure tests, to life experiences, and even suffering. Sometimes God's methods are not desirable but His results are credible.

## **6. Training for Timing**

Have you ever heard the phrase, 'timing is everything'? Timing is key to the potency of prophecy. If a prophetic word is spoken too early, it may not be as effective as it should. Likewise if a prophecy is held when it should be given, it loses its sharpness. Much of a prophet's life is about mastering timing; when to say what you hear; when to be at a particular place. Timing is everything! And mastering timing requires training. When Elisha asked his master Elijah the hard double portion question, Elijah replied "If you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so unto you, but if not, it shall not be so." Wow, that's something to really ponder. The future of Elisha and his purpose was predicated upon him being in the right place at the right time. Have you ever made an important connection almost by accident because you were in the right place at the exact right time? I have had this experience and wondered if I would have met this person or received that blessing if I didn't show up at a particular place. It is the same in prophetic ministry. Being in the right place at the right time is paramount to the success of the prophetic person. I remember when the Holy Spirit spoke to me a few years back and said, "I want you to be in this specific country on this month and day". I said, "Well that's strange." But, I obeyed God and went to the place He instructed and at the exact time. It was such a divine set-up. I was introduced to a high-ranking government official and prophesied into the destiny of that country. The Lord brought His words to pass. What if I would have disobeyed God's instruction? I would have missed out on a major opportunity to complete an assignment from heaven.

For Elisha to receive the mantle of Elijah he had to follow the instructions and be in position in order to get it. Second Kings 2:11-12 (

) says:

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, ‘My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!’ And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Elisha stuck close to the prophet Elijah. He saw him as he was taken up and grabbed ahold of the mantle. Now the journey would begin!

## **7. Training for the Mantle**

Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. ‘Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?’ he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

—2 Kings 2:13–14

Elisha had received the mantle, but he didn’t quite understand what he had. I can hear his heart’s cry and feel his agony through his words in the Scripture as he echoed “Where is the God of Elijah?” Many people don’t understand that the period of receiving a mantle from God can be a time of anguish in the life of a prophet. Receiving the mantle can be a period filled with frustration and isolation. I’m sure that Elisha felt all of those things. He was so distraught that his master was taken and so focused on the temporary situation that he may not have fully recognized the power in the mantle he was now holding.

A person must go through training to understand the depths, scope, and sphere of influence of the mantle that is given to him or her. Elisha had to go through specialized training in order to learn to properly utilize the dimension of anointing upon his master Elijah that now rested upon him as a double portion. Every mantle has a price. Every mantle has a people assigned to it. Every mantle has ability and power connected to it. To unlock this, Holy Spirit must teach you as you grow in character. Throughout each level of training, character development is at the core. Without Godly character the greatness within a prophet is diminished. A person can only go as far as their character can sustain them. Your character is who you are on a heart level. It can be gauged through evaluating your own thoughts, motives, desires, actions, and behavioral patterns. Godly character is developed through the crucible of trials and tests. The key is consuming the word of God daily and forcing your mind to conform to His word in order to think like Him and therefore act like Him.

Proper training in prophetic ministry brings purity to the prophetic function, gift, and assignment. As in any profession or industry, one must be trained to properly carry out a function. If someone aspired to be a doctor but didn't go through the proper schooling before he started operating on people, it would be a disaster. There would be several laws broken, malpractice, and contamination threatening the well-being of the patients. It is the same in the prophetic. When prophets are not properly trained they create disaster in the lives of others. A major way that the Holy Spirit is purifying the prophetic in this season is through the reintroduction of proper training modules and credible ministry schools for prophets and prophetic people.

Further, the relationship between Elijah and Elisha embodies that of a spiritual son and father. There is a need for fathers and sons (men and women) to work together in ministry. The more seasoned believers should be mentoring the underdeveloped to bring wholeness, sanctity and purity to the prophetic function.

## Chapter 6

### Character

### Development

Character is defined

as “the mental and moral qualities distinctive to an individual” (Oxford). A person’s character is the core or essence of their being. Character defines who a person is and how far an individual is able to go. All ministry should be built upon mature, developed and godly character. The character and attributes of God are expressed in Galatians 5:22–23; the fruit of the Spirit. God shows us His character that we might be transformed and adopt His attributes. Character in general, can be perceived by evaluating the traits and behavioral patterns of a person. Jeremiah 17:9 says “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Every prophet must go through heart purification and sanctification in order to cleanse from pride, sin, wrong motives and the like.

Early on in my prophetic journey, the Holy Spirit began to use others to train me in character development. This training helped to instill in me that character was more important than gifts. This is something that all prophets should prioritize in their lives; character above gifts. Over the past several decades as the popularity of prophetic ministry has increased, more emphasis was placed on accuracy, skill and use of gifts in the prophetic. This was the start of many problems within the church at large. For example, a prophet went on social media or came to a town and gave a word of knowledge and someone was healed. But that prophet does not live according to the tenants of the Christian faith and operate in adultery in his personal life.

How do we deal with this gray area in the prophetic? The Apostle Paul addressed this in 1 Corinthians 3:17 by saying that their works will be saved but they will not. Rebellion, disobedience, and a pattern of sin open the door for unclean spirits to operate in the life of the prophetic vessel. For this reason, prophets must guard their hearts and protect their anointing at ALL COSTS!

The Bible clearly deals with this grey area of prophetic ministry, where there is accuracy without purity of character and the fear of the Lord. Take a look at Deuteronomy 13:1–5:

If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst.

This passage of scripture is loaded with prophetic insight. If a prophet or dreamer tells you a word or performs a miracle and it comes to pass, but that prophet pulls you away from God, then the Lord allowed it to test your heart to reveal what or who you really love. If a sign, wonder, or accurate word has the ability to convince you to overlook character and following the path of God, then you really don’t love God with all your heart, mind and soul. God will allow this kind of false prophetic ministry to come into the life of the believer as a litmus test to see what you really desire. Now, understand that true prophetic ministry always points you to Christ; it will never draw you away from God. In the Torah, God told Moses to tell the people to put away the evil (verse 5). God is more concerned with the condition of our hearts and following His ways than He is with accuracy of a gift.

In 1 Corinthians 12 the Apostle Paul reveals nine spiritual gifts given to believers. These gifts are even more active in those who are prophets. These gifts are: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, gift of faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kind of tongues, and



interpretation. The gifts of the Spirit often operate in clusters. This means that a prophet may operate in many or all of these gifts. Because of the level of supernatural power and ability flowing through individuals, character balance is required. The Lord gave the nine fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) to help balance the nine gifts of the Spirit. In the next part of this chapter, I will expound on the nine gifts along with their corresponding fruit.

Paul starts with the word of wisdom as the first gift out of the nine. The word of wisdom or what is referred to in other parts of scripture as the Spirit of wisdom, can be defined as the understanding of the Spirit world. Not the same as earthly wisdom—to know how something earthly works, but the Spirit of wisdom is to know how the Spirit world operates. It is the understanding of spiritual matters and the ways of the Spirit. Everything in the Spirit is completely opposite of things in the earthly realm. For example, wisdom says to be promoted; you must become low and humble yourself. In order to really live and enjoy your life in Christ you must die to yourself. To truly embrace the love of God you must hate the sin. The balancing fruit to the Spirit of wisdom is self-control. Self-control is needed to enslave the flesh to obey the wisdom of God. Without the fruit of self-control an individual would only have information but no application. Self-control or discipline is the key to living as a consecrated servant and prophet of the Lord.

The word of knowledge is one of the most fascinating of the gifts of the Spirit. It is the ability to know something about a person, situation, or event that is currently happening or has already occurred through the Holy Spirit's communication. Through the word of knowledge, God has revealed the secrets of a person's heart that they have never seen or acknowledged. It is a beautiful gift that allows people to know that God exists and cares about them deeply. The balancing fruit given to this gift is meekness. Meekness can be defined as humble, teachable, and submissive. It is the Greek word *praiotes* meaning gentleness and humility. Because of the manifold revelation of the Spirit, humility is necessary. First Corinthians 8:1 (

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) says, "We know that we all have knowledge [concerning this]. Knowledge [alone] makes [people self-righteously] arrogant." The

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says, knowledge “puffs up.” To have the ability to tell people information about their lives which you cannot know by earthly means, can make a human vessel arrogant or high-minded. Meekness humbles the prophet or prophetic person who has this ability.

Let’s talk about the gift of faith. The gift of faith can be one of the most radical of the prophetic gifts. Faith can be described as belief in God’s words, plans and ways; being in alignment with His decisions concerning everything in life. The gift of faith is used to believe God for what He said, even if it seems impossible. Faith is the foundation by which we move in the Spirit and prophesy or operate in any of the other gifts. They all require faith. Faith carries with it a process. In the realm of faith, the demand is for it to happen NOW. When God speaks a word, faith says it should happen now. When you have a vision, you see it as if it is happening now, however; there is a process to faith. For this reason, God gave the fruit of patience. James 1:3–4, “The testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” Faith produces and develops patience. And without patience faith cannot perform.

The gift of healing is varied in function and operation. There are many ways that God chooses to heal. Healing was a signature of Jesus’ earthly ministry. He healed the sick wherever he went. I believe that healing will be a major part of the next great harvest of souls that we will see coming into the Body of Christ. God is activating this gift within believers everywhere to demonstrate His word in the earth. One of the things that I love about Jesus and His ministry in the earth is that He loves people. God loves people more than we could ever realize. He cares so much for His people that He wants us to be healed, whole, and to prosper. Matthew 9:35–36 says that Jesus was moved with compassion and He healed the sick. Isn’t that amazing? His compassion led Him to heal. In many ways, this equates to kindness. Kindness literally activates the gifts of healing in people to minister. Kindness can also heal hearts and conditions within others just by receiving it.

By far, the most demonstrative gift of the Spirit is the working of miracles. A miracle is something that defies all natural means. It can intersect with healings but is still very different in its own regard. For instance, the first miracle that Jesus performed publicly was turning water into wine at a wedding. Can you imagine the sight of this! It had to be an amazing experience for those who witnessed it. This defied all natural odds. There is no way that water can be

turned into wine. There is absolutely no way this is naturally or humanly possible. But with God all things are possible!

In Exodus 33:18–23 Moses asked of God, “Show me your glory.” He said, “God we have seen your judgments upon the people, now show us something miraculous.” Some translations of scripture show the word glory as goodness. Truly the glory of the Lord is His goodness. The fruit that balances out miracles is goodness. It takes glory (goodness) to produce miracles. There are realms of glory that can come upon us where miracles happen instantaneously. I strongly believe that the body of Christ is coming into new realms of glory that will bring forth uncommon and unusual miracles wrought by the hands of God’s prophets and prophetic people.

Prophecy is the most commonly known and most revealing of the gifts of the Spirit. To prophesy is to foretell or speak what is going to happen in the future before it occurs. Prophecy can be spoken to an individual about what will happen in their life. It can also be spoken regarding a group of people or even a city, nation, community, or organization. It’s one of the most exciting gifts for me personally to operate in. To hear and see the future, then declare it beforehand is amazing. Yet it carries with it a heaven burden and price. Some outcomes that you may see as a prophet are not favorable. You must build spiritual capacity to handle and manage what you hear and see in the Spirit. Prophecy is a very sought after gift because it can be rare at operations of high accuracy. People prophesy for many different reasons. Some do it for gain, wealth or money, while others may prophesy for self-promotion, validation or affirmation. Some have manipulated their gift to prophesy for control over others. It’s important that the motive for prophecy is pure and the spirit behind the prophecy is the Spirit of God. First Corinthians 13:2 says, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” Paul reveals that there is no need to prophesy without love. Love has to be the foundation and motivation for prophecy. And we know that God is love. Love is the fruit of the Spirit assigned to prophecy and it balances this explosive gift.

The next gift is discerning of spirits. This is the gift that identifies and locates what spirit is in operation. Within the function of this gift a person is able to detect a specific kind of demonic spirit that may be manifesting or operating through an individual. This supernatural endowment is greatly needed when

administering deliverance to someone that may be possessed with a devil. You will need to know which demon spirit is tormenting the person in order to call it out and for the person to experience total freedom. There are occasions where the Holy Spirit allows you to discern the spirit in operation but you are not permitted to intervene, but rather it is for you to be aware of the spirit so that you might guard yourself from it. The fruit of the Spirit assigned to this gift is longsuffering. Longsuffering is having the fortitude and patience to endure through hard situations. Longsuffering gives you the power to separate the person from the demon spirit that is operating through them. While they are going through their process of purging and deliverance, longsuffering may be necessary for you to bear it.

One of the most misunderstood gifts and under taught subjects are divers kinds of tongues. Speaking in tongues is a phenomenon that comes by being filled with the Holy Spirit. There two categories of tongues, glossolalia and xenolalia. Xenolalia is the ability to speak in a tongue or language that you have not learned but others who are fluent in it may understand. It is the phenomenon that took place in the second chapter of Acts. The one hundred twenty that waited in the upper room for the endowment of the Holy Spirit began to speak in other languages that they did not know. And they understood each other. This was a result of the Holy Spirit being poured out to them. The Holy Spirit enhanced their brains' ability to communicate. Then there is glossolalia, which is the phenomenon of speaking in an unknown tongue that Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians 14:1–5. The fruit given to balance and enhance the gift of tongues is the fruit of faith (not to be confused with the gift of faith). The fruit of faith is one of the core attributes of the spiritual gifts. It is the virtue that pleases God. Jude 1:20 admonishes us to build up our most holy faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. It takes faith to speak in tongues and to communicate with the Spirit in such a divine way.

The last of the nine gifts of the Spirit is interpretation of tongues. This is the ability to interpret unknown tongues in a known language. Paul explains to the church at Corinth that speaking in an unknown tongue should be followed by interpretation for the understanding of the congregation (1 Corinthians 14:1–5). Only the Holy Spirit can give a person the gift to interpret what He is saying in an unknown tongue. It is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit given to this gift is peace. Jesus says in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you” (

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). Peace is clarity of mind. Understanding heaven's communication takes clarity of mind. The fruit of peace balances out interpretation of tongues because it gives clarity of mind for understanding and divine utterance.

## Chapter 7

### Zadok:

#### The Seer Priest

An obscure passage

of scripture, 2 Samuel 8:17 makes reference to two chief priests during the time of David; Ahimelech and Zadok. Zadok was of the house of Eleazar the son of Aaron (1 Chronicles 24:3). This places Zadok in the lineage of the Levitical priesthood. He was the eleventh descendant from Aaron. Zadok was instrumental to David's reign during the time that his son Absalom revolted against him.

Second Samuel 15:24–25 reveals that David entrusted Zadok and the Levites to carry the Ark of the Covenant, which is a representation of the glory of God.

There was Zadok also, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God, and Abiathar went up until all the people had finished crossing over from the city. Then the king said to Zadok, "Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the Lord, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place."

This is powerful because Zadok was a priest who carried the glory of God. God wants to purify our prophetic companies and gatherings that we may now become carriers of the glory of God in all that we do. Priests and prophets are not just called to carry a message or a sound that brings deliverance; we are called to transport and transmit the glory of the Lord.

It's important to note that David did not just refer to Zadok as a priest. "The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Return to the city in peace

(2 Samuel 15:27). He referred to Zadok as a seer. It is the Hebrew word Ra'ah, one of the Hebrew terms or expressions to describe a prophet. Zadok was a most unique individual because David called him a Seer Priest. This is one of the clearest points in scripture where we see the marrying of the priesthood and the prophetic anointing in one individual. Once again in the present time, God is merging the priesthood and the prophetic anointing that He might bring the glory back that was present in the Ark of the Covenant back to the House of God. The priest is an intermediary who carries the glory and the Word of God. The emergence of new prophetic voices will operate in dual roles as priests and prophets over cities, regions and territories to purify the prophetic and release the glory of God.

Under David's reign as king, both Zadok and Abiathar served as co-high priests. They even served together under Solomon until Abiathar was banished. He is the only high priest in the history of Israel to be deposed of his position. Abiathar's treason was that he conspired to place Adonijah on the throne instead of Solomon (1 Kings 1:7, 19, 25). The priesthood was then totally transferred from the house of Ithamar (Abiathar) to the house of Eleazar (Zadok). This act represented realignment for the priesthood. All of Abiathar's responsibilities were transferred to Zadok. Likewise, even in our time there is a transfer of position, power, and process happening in the Body of Christ. The Spirit of God is transferring power and realigning the prophetic movement and the Body of Christ at large.

Furthermore, Zadok was instrumental in the anointing of Solomon to be king. This seer priest had an anointing to crown emerging leaders. First Kings 1:39–40:

Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" And all the people went up after him; and the people played the flutes and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth seemed to split with their sound.

These two verses of scripture are revelatory and powerful in the message that

they convey. Not only was Zadok called to officiate the ceremony for Solomon to be king, he blew the horn as a signal of elevation and jubilee to the people. It is important to view Zadok not just as a person who lived hundreds of years ago that was a part of biblical history; but as a prophetic model or type of priest and prophet that God is now raising up. Zadok is a model for a new prophetic company of believers that will walk in purity, crown the next leaders in the earth, and release the sound that will shake the earth.

Zadok's prophetic purity and anointing passed through generations down to his sons. Ezekiel refers to the sons of Zadok as "priests of righteousness". When Israel was led astray, the sons of Zadok kept the charge of the Lord. In Ezekiel 44, God lists requirements and includes these righteous priests and prophets. I believe that this holds much significance today. As God is causing the Zadok anointing to rise in our time, these verses of scripture in Ezekiel serve as a prophetic compass for us today.

## **12 Keys to Purifying the Prophetic (Ezekiel 44:15–28)**

### **1. They will come near to Me to minister to Me (verse 15).**

The sons of Zadok were to minister in their priestly roles and responsibilities before the Lord on behalf of the people. They were instructed to come near the Lord. This is a major key to right alignment in prophetic ministry. Prophets must stay connected to the Lord. The Holy Spirit is our lifeline. If a prophet loses connection with the Lord he or she cannot be of proper service to the Lord. This means that prophets must spend quality time in prayer and in direct communication with the Father. Sometimes this requires sacrificing relationships, friendships, and human desires to be faithfully committed to God and His assignment for your life. Further, the sons of Zadok were called to minister to God. To minister means to serve. Prophets are called to serve God.



Ministry to the Lord is expressed in worship, prayer, and fasting; but most importantly, obedience.

## **2. They will keep my charge (verse 16).**

Keeping charge is a phrase that deals with keeping the sanctity of the priestly office. The priests were required to keep the sacred laws and responsibilities of the priesthood. They were also called to be door keepers to the sanctuary. They were to watch and stand guard as defenders of the presence of God. I strongly believe that God is calling His seer priests and prophets to be defenders of the presence of God and to protect the glory of God at all costs. In addition, prophets have a responsibility that goes along with the prophetic office. Prophets are called to be in complete obedience to the will of the Father. Keeping the charge of God creates a pure stream and flow of His Spirit.

## **3. They shall put on linen garments. They shall not clothe themselves with anything that causes sweat (verses 17–18).**

Putting on linen garments was a sign of purity for the priests (David, 1871). While linen material was a sign of purity, wool material was a sign of uncleanness. The sons of Zadok were required to wear linen garments, bonnets, and under garments when going into the inner court and holy place to offer up sacrifices before the Lord. The instruction from God came that they could not wear wool because it induces perspiration; in other words it causes sweat and becomes unclean. In the holy place, there can be no sweat. Sweat is a sign of human effort and work. When Adam and Even sinned, God said to Adam, you must work by the sweat of your brow or face (Genesis 3:19). In other words, in order to accomplish, work, and eat, Adam would have to sweat for it. This was a

part of the curse of the human condition after the fallen nature of man. Again, sweat is symbolic of human effort. This is the very reason why God told the sons of Zadok there was to be no wool producing sweat in the holy of holies. You will not minister by your own effort, but you will minister by My Spirit! As God is purifying prophetic ministries all over the world, He is requiring that we bring no human effort into His holy space. No person will be able to get the glory for the things that only God can do. Prophets must minister by and through His Spirit alone.

#### **4. When they go out to the outer court, to the people, they shall take off their garments in which they have ministered (verse 19).**

God then instructs the sons of Zadok to take off their garments when they go out of the inner court and to the outer court among the people. He places a striking difference between what they should be clothed in when they minister to God versus when they are amongst the people. The ministry garments were to be kept holy and sacred. Spiritually, it is important to keep yourself clothed properly to do the work of ministry. How ministers approach God should not be the same as how they approach others. God is to be feared and referenced and should be respected as such.

Further, clothing represents preparedness. Naturally, we change our clothing based on the day, weather conditions, and occasion. It is similar in spiritual matters. Ministers must have a special kind of preparation when ministering before God. A prophet's assignment often requires a greater level of preparation.

#### **5. They shall neither shave their heads nor let their hair grow long, but they shall keep their hair well-trimmed (verse 20).**

During the time of Ezekiel, mourners would shave their heads. Additionally, the worshippers of Egyptian idols like Serapis and Isis would shave their heads. This was the reason why the God of Israel required His priests to have unshaven heads. However, they were not allowed to let their locks grow long and untamed like the barbaric people of their time. They were to keep them trimmed and well managed. Now, what is the spiritual significance of this? In the Bible, hair is symbolic of the anointing and glory. A woman's hair is referred to as her glory. Also, it is clear that Samson's locks were the source of his strength and anointing. As a prophet or prophetic person, maintaining your anointing is imperative to your effectiveness in ministry. It is necessary to practice maintenance by staying consistent in the study of the Word, have intensified regular times of prayer and strategic fasting. This will help to keep the anointing flowing free and pure, without contamination.

## **6. No priest shall drink wine when he enters the inner court (verse 21).**

It is consistent throughout scripture that God wanted His priests not to be given to wine. In this specific text, it says the priests shall not drink wine when he enters the inner court. It implies that God wants the priests to be of sober heart and mind when they enter in to minister. Wine signifies drunkenness and impaired vision. Impaired vision and drunkenness of mind can hinder the flow and effectiveness of ministry. It is important to understand that people called to minister should be sober in their spirits, not contaminated or drunk with the cares of life, and clear in vision and sight.

## **7. They shall not take as wife a widow or a divorced woman, but take virgins of the descendants of the house of Israel, or widows of priests (verse 22).**

God wanted to make sure that the lineage of the priests stayed pure and within the house of Israel. He didn't want any mixture with those that served other gods or with those that were not pure. This is why he required the priests to marry someone that had not been defiled. Biblical marriage is symbolic of a long lasting covenant. It is the highest ranking covenant that exists in the earth. It mirrors Christ's love for the church. Prophets must remember to make and honor covenant with the Holy Spirit. This means that His friendship outranks all other friends. His love outranks all other love. And His will outranks the will and opinions of people. Not only must prophets honor their covenants with God, prophets must watch who or what they enter into covenant with. If others are not walking upright with the Lord you should not join yourself to them—even if they are gifted, anointed, and skilled. By coming into covenant with rebellious people you jeopardize your covenant with the Lord. It matters who you are aligned with whom you choose to fellowship. God desires right alignment for His people. He will send the right people into your life that will accompany you as you walk out your purpose and calling.

## **8. They shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy (verse 23).**

God instructed the sons of Zadok to teach the people the difference between the sacred and the profane; in other words, the holy and the unholy. The new move of God that will emerge in prophetic circles will be teaching prophets. Teaching prophets will rise up and instruct God's people on the difference between the things that are sacred and things that are common. There must be a separation between what is sacred and what is common. The word of God, the house of God, His instruments, appointed times, ministry gifts, and all that pertain to God are all sacred. This is significant to teach to believers because there are many who are not aware. When we keep the things that are sacred separate from that which is profane, it brings reverence, respect, and honor to the Most High. The reverential fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. This respect for God pleases Him and attracts the glory of the Lord.

## **9. In controversy they shall stand in judgment (verse 24).**

The Zadok seer priests were called to deal with controversy and be righteous judges. The English definition of controversy is a “prolonged public dispute or contention regarding a matter of opinion” (Oxford, 2020). The sons of Zadok were righteous judges. Again you see the merging of the prophet (judge) and priest anointing. They were called to deliberate and legislate concerning issues that would rise up concerning Israel and the nations. A judge is an official that is appointed to decide cases and determine the outcome of situations. The prophetic judge in the text represents a model of a new breed of prophets and prophetic types. The Lord is raising up a breed of prophets that are anointed to stand in the midst of controversy and judge righteously from a heavenly position of authority. These judge prophets are called to deal with political, economic, governmental, social, and ecumenical controversies that will rise up in our time. These Zadok prophets are emerging now in this season, walking in righteousness and judging well.

## **10. They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths (verse 24).**

According to the Torah given to Moses, the priests were required to keep the laws and statutes of God. Moses was given Ten Commandments and 611 laws or sets of instructions. It is important to view the Torah as loving instructions from a Father for His children. These instructions were to be kept by the priest's order. In addition, the nation of Israel was commanded to keep the Feasts of the Lord also known as Appointed Times, forever. There are seven key periods on the Hebrew calendar that God required His people to observe. These days are

honored even to this day. Prophets are called to follow the instructions, laws, and precepts of God's Word. Prophets should study, know, and live out the Word of God above all things. This is the roadmap to prophetic purity.

## **11. They shall not defile themselves by coming near a dead person (verse 25).**

The priests were not permitted to deal with the dead except if it were their mother or father (a close relative). A corpse represents uncleanness. Because God is the source of life and all living things, the priests were required to be connected to life and not dead things. This is prophetic in nature. Prophetic priests are called to stay away from dead things. As a prophet or prophetic person, you must search your life and make sure that there are no dead things in or around you. The Apostle Paul calls this dead works. In other words, he is referring to sin and iniquity. Sin is a dead work. We are no longer slaves to fear and sin, but we are alive to righteousness through Jesus Christ. Symbolically, not coming near dead people represents people who are spiritually dead. Those are the kinds of people that you must separate from so that they do not contaminate the anointing upon your life.

## **12. In regard to their inheritance, that I am their inheritance (verse 28).**

The last key point to purifying the prophetic understands your inheritance. In Scripture, God was very clear that the priests were not to have a natural inheritance of land. They had to be fully committed to the work of God. The most beautiful part of Ezekiel 44 is that God said, "I am their inheritance." This didn't mean that they were naturally blessed and taken care of. According to the pattern and system that God set up, they were. However, they had to be aware

that God Himself was their heritage and legacy. He would be their reward. That's worth more than any treasure, money or earthly reward. God owns all of those things anyway. But to have relationship and sonship with the Father is worth so much more than an earthly treasure that will pass away. This is the greatest concept for prophets and prophetic people to grasp. Many prophets are disappointed because of what they don't have. Some are disappointed because they have prophesied to others what they themselves lack. This level of disappointment can breed bitterness in the heart that can contaminate and influence the prophetic gifts; where people begin to prophesy and minister from a place of bitterness. God allows this to test the heart. What are you really after? Where are your affections? Who do you really love? When God is your inheritance nothing else matters but Him.

## Chapter 8

### Voice Command

Moses had the

enormous mandate to lead millions of God's people out of the bondage of Egypt and into the land of promise. This was not an easy task for him. He had to deal with his own inadequacies, pharaoh being against him, and the rebellion of the people. Yet God walked with him each step of the way. From the story and life of Moses we can learn about hearing God's voice and acting in obedience.

In Exodus 17, the congregation was in the midst of transition from the Wilderness of Sin into Rephidim. There was no water for the millions of people following Moses. God used this as an opportunity to show forth his power through Moses so that the people would have greater trust in his leadership. Exodus 17:6 says, "I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on" (

nlt

).

It would be nearly 40 years later that the children of Israel found themselves in another situation where they had no water. They began arguing amongst themselves. They blamed Moses for their condition, as they had done so many times before. Numbers 20:2–11 (

nlt

):



There was no water for the people to drink at that place, so they rebelled against Moses and Aaron. The people blamed Moses and said, “If only we had died in the Lord’s presence with our brothers! Why have you brought the congregation of the Lord’s people into this wilderness to die, along with all our livestock? Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us here to this terrible place? This land has no grain, no figs, no grapes, no pomegranates, and no water to drink!” Moses and Aaron turned away from the people and went to the entrance of the Tabernacle, where they fell face down on the ground. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord said to Moses, “You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the entire community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over there, and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough water from the rock to satisfy the whole community and their livestock.” So Moses did as he was told. He took the staff from the place where it was kept before the Lord. Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. “Listen, you rebels!” he shouted. “Must we bring you water from this rock?” Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. So the entire community and their livestock drank their fill.

Out of his frustration and anger with the people, Moses hit the rock twice instead of speaking to the rock as God had commanded him. The prophetic significance of this is that 40 years earlier the people were fresh out of the bondage of the Egyptian system. In the Egyptian system the Israelites were beaten and forced to build and carry out manual labor. This bred within them a disdain for leadership because of the hard taskmasters that were placed over them. Many of them became angry, bitter and even rebellious. Hardened psychologically by that environment, the people would have to be (hit/struck) if they were to obey. In Exodus 17, Moses was instructed to strike the rock, which was something familiar to God’s people. They learned to become comfortable with and secure in an environment where people and things were beaten into submission. In Numbers 20, we see that God was preparing His people to enter their land of promise and was shifting the style of leadership in order to pivot the psychological state of the people. God longed to have a people that He no longer had to force to obey Him. He wanted a people that He could speak to and they would willingly obey. Because Moses did not make the leadership transition from forced command to voice command, he was not permitted to take the people into the land of promise. Numbers 20:12 says, “But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my

holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them!”

There are several principles that can be derived from this story concerning Moses. First, your psychological state can affect your ability to receive from God and even recognize His voice. The children of Israel were damaged by a system of bondage that caused them to act out generations of oppression. Second, God wants to be the one who commands your life. He doesn't want you to have to experience suffering, force, or pain for you to obey him. Third, it is a decision and a transition that you have to make from being forced to obey to listening and obeying.

The problem with the children of Israel is they didn't even know how to properly recognize the voice of God. This is why Moses was to demonstrate the voice to them. What demonstration of hearing the voice of God have you seen? This possibly affects how you currently view God, whether positively or negatively.

Other questions that you should ask yourself: “Do I hear and obey God's voice the first time I hear it? Am I accustomed to experiencing pain and calamity in my life before I obey what I heard? Do I know the voice of God?”

A voice activated believer is one who is in tune with the voice of the Lord. It is an individual who is healed and whole, mentally and emotionally; freed from the fetters of bondage and ready to do what God says at a moment's notice.

## Chapter 9

### Purifying the Sound

# ***“Relearning the voice of God”***

I am more

amazed than ever at the advancements that have been made in the past ten years that have fostered a day-to-day dependence on gadgets, tablets, and smartphones. These devices have improved our everyday living and made complex processes a lot simpler. Recently, there has been a boom in voice-enabled technology. This technology can be found in TVs, phones, computers, car systems and many other devices. A recent study shows that nearly 50 percent of smart phone users utilize voice-enabled technology at least once a week, and those numbers are rising (Statistica, 2017). What we see happening in the world around us can be symbolic or even a prophetic pointer to what heaven is heralding.

“The sheep that are My own hear My voice and listen to Me; I know them, and they follow Me” (John 10:27,

amp

). Earlier in the same passage of scripture in verse 10, Jesus reveals that the thief comes to “steal, kill and to destroy.” It’s possible that verse 27 reveals the antidote; knowing and following the voice of God. In this chapter, I will explore the diversity of ways that God speaks in the Bible and how it connects to this present time. It is also my objective to give sound knowledge and information regarding this subject.

Hearing the voice of God through His Word and Spirit is sacred, and should not be regarded as strange and mystical. There are many accounts where the Spirit of

God spoke to believers in the New Testament in order to fulfill His agenda and purpose. Many people in the prophetic community need to get acquainted with the voice of the Lord again. This can only come through relationship and quality time with the Father. Some of the confusion in surrounding the prophetic in the Body of Christ over the past few years could be corrected and drastically changed if those operating as prophets and prophetic people would learn to properly hear the voice of God. A major part of purifying the prophetic is learning His voice above all others.

I was moved to write on this subject while facilitating prophetic training and conducting a poll among the attendees. I asked several simple questions and was amazed by the answers. Many of the participants had been in Christ for a number of years. I asked questions like: Do you have a good understanding of the Word of God? Do you converse with the Holy Spirit and hear Him speak to your heart regularly? Do you know the difference between your human (inner) voice, God's voice, or other?

I was puzzled to hear that most of those who were attending the event answered no to the questions. This fueled me to focus my teaching on empowering believers to have a passionate love for the Word of God and to learn the voice of the Lord.

Voice-enabled technology gives individuals the ability to make a command, ask a question, or speak a desire and the device will perform the task. Like this technology, Christians should also be voice activated. Through His Word and His Spirit, God should be able to make a request and we perform the task. I call this being a voice-activated believer.

God greatly desires to fine tune His prophetic vessels so that we are hearing and releasing the right sound. Some must learn the voice of the Lord, while others must relearn His voice. Hearing the voice of God is imperative to a pure prophetic flow.

## **Sound Came Out of the Mouth of God**

“Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.”

—Job 37:2

Sound is produced by stimulation of the organs of hearing by vibrations transmitted through the air or other channel. In Job 37:2, sound is the Hebrew word *hegeh*. It means muttering, sighing, a thought, or thunder. Literally, sound is defined as a sigh, thought or a sound likened to thunder that came out of God’s mouth. How can a thought come out of God’s mouth with the sound of thunder? God speaks in thoughts and God communicates in thought form. Jeremiah 29:11 says it like this: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” God is not just thinking about you. God is thinking toward you. He is sending His thoughts to the minds of those who are willing to hear. These are ideas, plans, and answers that are packaged as thoughts. A thought is something that occurs suddenly or spontaneously within the mind. One of the greatest inventions known to man is the human mind. God, in His supreme intelligence, created a complex system that He can communicate with through thought. Hearing God requires a renewed mind that can only come through embracing, receiving, and digesting His Word daily. For this reason, Paul said to the church at Philippi, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

## **Six Principles of Sound**

There is so much more to explore regarding sound. There are six principles of sound that will help to bring deeper understanding to learning the voice of God.

## **1. Sound is mechanical energy.**

“Sound is the movement of energy through substances in longitudinal (compression/rarefaction) waves. Sound is produced when a force causes an object or substance to vibrate—the energy is transferred through the substance in a wave” (Environment, 2018). Energy is power and activity. When God speaks, every word expands capacity and empowers the individual that hears. The voice of the Lord brings intense activity that causes things to move, take shape and form. Power moves mountainous challenges and brings solutions to problems. Likewise, the voice of God moves mountains and brings answers. The sound that comes out of the mouth of God is a massive force that brings order to the cosmos, directives to the angelic hosts, and direction to people. Sound is movement. When the Lord speaks, molecules respond and move at His words.

## **2. Sound can only be heard if the human ear is within range.**

In order for sound (vibrations) to be heard there must be an ear that is able to respond to the vibration of air. As Jesus speaks to the seven churches in the book of Revelations, He says seven times: “He that has an ear, let him hear.” This means that not everyone has an ear to hear spiritually or understand what the Lord is saying. If you are having a problem hearing the voice of the Lord, your prayer should not be “God, speak to me” or “Give me the answer.” Your prayer should be, “Lord, give me an ear to hear.” God is often speaking; many don’t have an ear to hear.

## **3. A sound wave is a pressure wave.**

A sound wave consists of repeating patterns of high pressure and low pressure frequencies. Understanding the science behind sound can be somewhat daunting. I don't want to get lost in the science, but I want you to see its prophetic symbolism. Pressure is a part of the process to produce sound. Spiritually speaking, learning the voice of God requires an element of pressure. It is highly likely that you will go through intense situations within your life that will drive you to a place of desperation in prayer. The pressure of trials produces a longing to seek God for His will, His plan, and His purpose for the trials. It is in this pressurized environment that the voice of the Lord is active. God uses the pressure to develop your ear to hear. Developing an ear to hear is a process that takes time.

The Bible symbolically compares God's people to sheep. Let's look at the nature and process that lambs go through. When a baby lamb is born, it does not have the ability to recognize the call of the shepherd. Lambs have a built-in instinct to follow the flock. Whichever way the flock goes; the lamb's instinct is to follow. This is a quality that God placed within lambs for survival. God placed this within them until they are able to recognize the voice of the shepherd. Sheep that are placed within a new flock will also follow the other sheep until they can become familiar with the voice of the shepherd. People often say that sheep are dumb but actually they are intelligent. Sheep learn the voice of the shepherd based on the things that the shepherd does for the sheep. The shepherd gives the feeding call, the shepherd defends the sheep, and the shepherd directs the sheep. Before the sheep can learn the voice of the shepherd they must learn his character and behavior. As a believer, know the voice of God by first learning His character and behavior. It is necessary that you learn to obey Him. "Although He [Jesus] was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8,

amp

). Suffering (pressure) is often an effective teacher when it comes to learning obedience and actively following God's voice.

#### **4. Sound cannot travel through a vacuum (an empty area of matter).**

In order for sound to be heard it has to have an object to bounce off of. Hebrews 11:1 says that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” The Oxford Dictionary definition of substance is “that of which a thing consists, physical matter or material.” Faith is matter. Matter is anything that occupies space. In order for God’s sound to be heard it has to pass through matter (faith). Without faith you cannot hear His voice, know His voice, or receive His voice. The voice of the Spirit has to have something of substance, the Word of God, within you to connect to. There is a spiritual revival and awakening coming from heaven upon the earth. It carries a sound with it. You can’t receive the sound if you’re empty and void of God’s Spirit. The quickest way to hear His voice is to fill yourself up with scriptures to nourish your spirit.

## **5. The speed of sound is 767 miles per hour (NASA, 2018).**

Sound travels so fast that you hear it before you comprehend it. The neurological signals that carry information within the brain to produce what we call thought, also has a speed. The speed of thought is around 156–270 miles per hour. The speed of sound is faster than the speed of thought. This is a significant spiritual principle. God speaks faster and above what your mind can understand. Over ten years ago I sat in the back of a small church filled with people. The speaker called me up and shoved a microphone in my hand. She said, “I know the Lord has given you something.” Before I could even think my mind was overloaded with what I now describe as divine communication. It happened so quickly. The Spirit of God said to me there was a person that was in prison and He was going to perform a miracle and give him an early release. God then spoke two names to me. I knew that both of those people would be affected by this word. Before I processed it, I just said it over the microphone. After saying it, I came back to myself and I immediately regretted what I said. I had never done this before and it wasn’t something that I was comfortable with. It requires some kind of boldness to declare a word from God in front of a crowd and speak specific names of individuals. To make matters even worse, no one seemed to know who



the prophecy was for. No one came up to testify of the word. The church service ended and I felt so embarrassed and I began to doubt what I heard. This occurred during a time in my life when I was learning to recognize the voice of God in a deeper way. I thought I certainly missed it. To my surprise, a woman and her husband came to me after the service. She spoke some English but her native language was Spanish. She said, “You called the names of my two sons. One of them is in prison.” The woman and her husband were in tears. I asked why they didn’t come up to the front when I called their names. They said they were afraid to come up, but wanted me to pray for them. They believed the prophecy that their son would be released from prison early. I turned to tell the pastor of the church what happened, but the Lord said to me, “No. I’m teaching you how to trust My voice even when others think you didn’t hear it.” Learning the voice of the Lord is a process that comes through building relationship with Him.

## **6. A sound perceived as pleasing and harmonious is music.**

God speaks to His people through music. Sound is systematic vibrations of moving air or spirit. Any pattern of vibrations creates music. The American Dictionary’s definition of music is “an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color.” Everything God does is in strategic rhythm and order. Therefore, sound coming out of the mouth of God is music. Music is the language of the Spirit. God communicates with mankind through music; it speaks to the entire physicality of man. The pattern of sound known as music is so important that the Bible even states that the protocol for entering into the presence of the Lord is singing. Psalm 100:2 says, “Serve the

Lord

with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” To sing is to release sounds in succession with musical modulations of the voice. The main three elements of sound are rhythm, melody, and harmony, speak to each component of the human being. Every human being is three parts just as God has three

distinct expressions of who He is. You are a spirit first, you possess a soul, and you live in a body.

Rhythm is “the pattern of regular or irregular pulses caused in music by the occurrence of strong and weak melodic and harmonic beats”. It is also movement that can be measured and expressed through the body in dancing. God designed rhythm to minister to the body. All sound in the form of music contains rhythm. Second Samuel chapter 6 details the historic moment when the Ark of the Covenant was finally brought back to the city of David. The Ark of the Covenant had been away for some time. The Ark was symbolic of the glory of God. Heaven sent forth the sound of release and God favored David to receive it again. At the sound of the playing instruments, David danced in rhythmic strength, power, and boldness. It was his response to God’s communication of favor to Israel. God moves and speaks through music and rhythm. Expressions of rhythm in the human body have been known to relieve stress, facilitate healthy release of emotions, and even promote happiness. Rhythm is a component of music that God created for His pleasure and for human connection and enrichment.

Melody is “a rhythmical succession of single tones producing a distinct musical phrase or idea”. Melody is comprised of the sound in between the measured beats of rhythm. It comes from a compound Greek word. The first part of the word is melikos, a poem intended to be sung. The second part is ode, meaning to “smell like incense, to give off an odor or fragrance”. This is why worship through melody releases a sweet fragrance to the heavenly Father. I believe when we sing to God, He sings back to us. He communicates with the church through music. Additionally, ode means “a path or a way”. Melody speaks to the soul. Divine melodies open up pathways that connect the human soul to the spirit of God. Melody ministers to the heart of God, but can also revive, restore, and heal the souls of people.

Harmony is “the simultaneous combination of tones, especially when blended into chords pleasing to the ear; chordal structure, as distinguished from melody and rhythm”. Harmony comes from the Greek word harmonia; meaning “joint, agreement, framework, join together, and chariot. Harmony is an agreeable sound that ministers to spirit. The human spirit is a connector to all other components. When the voice of God speaks, it comes with a harmonious force that brings elements together and revives the human spirit. The spirit of man is the framework that houses the soul. Without the spirit the body would decay.

When the spirit of man has not received divine harmony through salvation it adversely affects the soul and body.

Chapter 10

When God

Is Silent

**Will You restrain Yourself at these things, O**

**Lord**

**? Will You keep silent and afflict us beyond measure?**

**—Isaiah 64:12**

Have you ever

felt as though God was silent in the midst of a situation where you needed Him the most? Have you ever felt like God's voice was nowhere to be found? Elijah found himself in this same place in 1 Kings 18:1, "After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah. 'Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.'" For three and a half years Elijah was in a waiting period. He continued to hold on to what the Lord had said to him while he waited on further instructions from the Lord while the people continued in their idolatry of Baal worship.

As a believer, it is common to experience a dry season where it seems as though God is not speaking to you. In these periods of eerily strong silence, God is speaking or conveying a message inaudibly. Communication is essential to life and relationship building. It is important to know that twenty percent of language is verbal and eighty percent of language is nonverbal. The nonverbal

category may include writing and body language. God often communicates in nonverbal ways. His primary form of communication is His written Word. However, the Spirit of God speaks and communicates in a diversity of ways. So what do you do when God is silent?

## **Embrace the Silence**

The first thing to do is to not ignore the silence that you sense from God. Silence is a season; a period of time that you must pass through. Some of the greatest things have been revealed to me in periods of silence from just meditating on what God has already said. I have found that after every dry season there is a thrust that comes, a propelling forward. It is imperative that you don't run from periods of silence or get upset. It's okay not to like the silence, but don't dishonor God's process by cursing it. By accepting and embracing the silence you are fully surrendering to God's will and actively seeking Him to know His heart.

## **Silence Is for Preparation**

I remember going through a dry season. It felt like I couldn't get any answers from God. Everything around me seemed to be drying up and it felt like God wasn't there. This happened when I first went fully into ministry. I've been preaching the Gospel now for around sixteen years and in full-time ministry for over ten years. At the time of stepping fully into ministry, I had just experienced an amazing season in my relationship with God. I was given instructions and vision from God that I was carrying out. I was beyond excited, happy, and driven. Things that God showed me I prayer began to happen. My business was starting to bring in more money in than the job I had been working. Ministry opportunities opened for me to serve others and be a blessing. I was traveling to

new places and doors were opening. God was speaking through me and there were notable testimonies of this.

God spoke to me and challenged me to leave my job (which I don't recommend for everyone) and accept full-time ministry along with operating my business that I had started. I took the leap of faith. Everything went well for all of a month and then BOOM . . . everything stopped. I prayed, but there was no answer. When I worshipped I felt God there, but I heard nothing. My business stopped getting clients. Next, the ministry opportunities to travel and spread the Gospel shut down. I went back into prayer and still no word. I could not understand why God would push me to step out of my comfort zone, launch these new things, and now abandon me.

So I made up in my mind that I was going back to work. I had just received a college degree and was excited to put it to use. I submitted resume after resume. I submitted close to one hundred within in a short period of time. I received no offers. Eventually, I attempted to return to the jobs that had previously offered me positions, but they also said no. I started spending hours in prayer, fasting, and seeking God for direction. I felt lost and so abandoned. Had I done something wrong? Had I sinned against God? Was God mad at me? I went through a series of thoughts but I kept praying in the Spirit, asking for direction and reading my Bible. This dry season lasted for about six months. Towards the end of that six-month period God started speaking to me. He told me that I was in a season of preparation. During this period, the Holy Spirit broke pride within me; He humbled me. He taught me how to seek and depend on Him. God was preparing me for ministry by renovating my soul and my mind.

Your silent season is meant to prepare you for your next season. Some things cannot be properly dealt with until it seems God is silent in your life. When studying the cannon of the scriptures, I researched the 400-year period between the Old and New Testament where God was silent. There was no recorded prophecy during this time. God wasn't communicating with His people. That 400-year time frame was preparation and development for what was about to come on the scene. In silence you are being developed and processed for greatness. It is a time for you to confront wrongdoing and sin in your life and fully surrender to God's plan. Allow Him to renovate your soul.

## **Go Back to the Basics**

God's silence should not necessarily be perceived as a negative experience. Your perspective determines the outcome of your situation. This phase of your process is an opportunity for you to get back to the basics of your Christian faith. Prayer is essential to your faith journey with God. Jude 1:20 explains that you build up your most holy faith when you pray in the Holy Ghost. Praying in the Spirit is the key to navigating the silent place. As I've mentioned throughout this book, reading the Bible is required for growth. Developing a love and passion for God's word is a basic foundational principle of salvation. In addition, fasting is a crucial part of Christian precepts. Going back to these basic principles will keep your mind in alignment with God's will and cause your spirit to stay connected to His.

## **When God Is Quiet, He Is Showing His Love**

Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior, He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy" (

nasb

). When God is quiet His love is not. God's desire is to see you grow and mature. A loving father desires to see His children progress and advance through states of growth. At times this requires evaluations. Evaluations are controlled environments for examination. God will allow you to be placed in a silent environment in order to assess your level of growth. What you do and how you govern yourself in the silent times determines your elevation. A mature son or daughter understands that although a father may not be there while he or she is

in school, His principles, standards, and instructions have not changed. God's silence is your opportunity to remember what He has already said. Apply what He has already taught you and learn His ways by resting in His love. The love of God is all we need. His love reminds us that we are accepted by Him.

In the education world, silence is used as a means of study and comprehension. When the teacher has finished teaching, it is time for personal study, work, or even an exam. Silence enhances focus. Focus opens the door for retention of information. It is possible that God is silent in some seasons of your life in order to enhance focus and retention of His Word. Further, the Bible says to meditate on the Word of God. Meditating on the Word can best be achieved through silence. Hopefully, you are now viewing the silent seasons of your life in a different way. Silence is not the absence of the divine communication of God, but an opportunity to cultivate growth in your life.



## Chapter 11

### The Power

### of the Heart

To speak means

to communicate or express one's self. In order to receive communication, you must be able to hear. The biblical concept of hearing is not with the physical ears. Psalm 115:6 says, "They have ears but they cannot hear." The spiritual concept of hearing is to understand with the heart. The heart is the core and principal seat of man. Hearing is not about deciphering audible sound. Hearing is about listening, understanding, receiving and obeying. Jeremiah 17:9 reveals that the heart of mankind is deceitful. In order to properly hear and understand the voice of God there must be a conversion of the heart. Cleansing and sanctification of the heart is not just about a one-time prayer of salvation. It's an ongoing process of fine-tuning your inner ear (heart) to be aligned with God's. It's imperative as a Believer that you have a regular routine of asking God to purify your heart and identify and remove areas within your heart that are opposing God's instruction and His Word. Your heart is the key to hearing the voice of God. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (

niv

). If everything flows from the heart, then the heart is the command/control center. Whatever influences the heart controls the body. After realizing this, you must become acutely aware that there is an ongoing battle of what or who will influence (speak to), control, and govern your heart. Because of this, you must guard your heart!

## **He Placed the World**

## **in Your Heart**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 states “He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.” The Hebrew word for world there is *owlam*. It means the future, futurity, continuing existence, eternity. Futurity means one (an entity) who has no beginning and no end. The future is within your heart. Physically, what is in the heart of man? Blood. That’s right, DNA. DNA carries information through cells within the blood throughout the entire body. God placed His voice within your blood. This is a powerful revelation. He is the only one who has no beginning and no end. Literally, the voice of God is within your heart. With every heartbeat God is speaking. Your heartbeat is declaring you have purpose.

Let that resound in your ears. The future is in your heart. Every single thing you will ever do, every place you will ever go, and who you will become is already within you. If the future is in your heart and your heart is within you, then you hold answers and direction for your next step. Because the voice of God is built within you, then you are never without His voice. He leads you and guides you when He influences your heart. Here are eight ways to guard your heart from wrong influences and to keep it pure to hear the voice of God:

### **1. Be careful what you consume.**

Jesus cautioned that it is what comes out of your mouth that defiles or corrupts you (Matthew 15:11). And it is from the heart that the mouth speaks (Luke 6:45). It’s imperative to pay attention to what enters into your gateways. What you see, hear, and allow yourself to be around will always influence your heart. The heart creates the human perception. It is the lens by which humanity sees. Compare the heart to a translator. When God relays communication to an individual, it must first pass through the translator called the heart. How the heart hears will determine what the heart conveys to its host. You can also

compare the heart to a pair of glasses. If the lenses are cracked or blurry, they will impair vision. It is the same with the heart. If you consume negative and wicked things it will eventually crack and damage the heart. This will cause spiritually impaired hearing, seeing and understanding.

## **2. Pray in the Spirit daily.**

When you pray in the spirit you build your faith according to Jude 1:20. Faith is a shield that protects the heart. In addition, praying in the Spirit unlocks mysteries from heaven. It keeps a pure line and connection to the Father. Without prayer we cannot access the mind of God. Learning the voice of God requires spending time in prayer in order to become one with Him. Becoming one with the Holy Spirit should be every believer's pursuit. Prayer is the constant force behind accurately hearing the voice of the Lord. Praying in the Spirit takes us into realms within the mind of God that can only be unlocked through the Spirit.

## **3. Obey the leading of the Spirit.**

Being led by the Spirit of God is a sure way to remain safe from spiritual danger. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? This means to follow His written instructions in the Bible. However, it goes beyond writings on pages, it is following His Spirit in your everyday life. Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." When you are led by the Spirit of God you pay close attention to His gentle nudge. You give ear to His compassionate warnings, and careful guidance. The Holy Spirit is the master teacher. It is His desire to instruct you that you might grow in all areas of life. The Holy Spirit is the heart of God gently leading and guiding us into all truth.

## **4. Develop relationships for accountability.**

Developing the right relationships ensures that you are protected in times of doubt and in situations where you have the potential to be in error. All of us are susceptible to error. Because we are human, there is a possibility where we will think we hear something from God or believe we are doing something right, but in actuality we are wrong. If you don't have the right people to pray with you and hold you accountable you will be set up for destruction. Sometimes it takes someone else to speak truth to you when you cannot see it clearly. I've been traveling and ministering as a prophet for the past sixteen years. The only way I have remained in alignment with God, throughout mistakes and detours is because accountability through relationships. Earlier in my life I viewed accountability as a form of punishment. When I did something wrong I had this image of those that I was accountable to punishing me or being harsh. After growing spiritually, I have come to realize that the greater the gift, the greater the need for accountability. Accountability is not about punishment; it's about keeping you from self-destruction. Find good people that will keep you aligned with God's Word and hold on to them. They will be your compass in times of storms.

## **5. Create an atmosphere for growth.**

A heart can only be protected in the right atmosphere. The right atmosphere is an environment that is conducive for growth. Imagine the atmosphere in your home if it was left unregulated. In your home, you probably control the temperature with your thermostat. It must constantly be gauged because the temperature outside changes. If you left the temperature or atmosphere in your home the same in the winter as it was in the summer, it would probably be very uncomfortable. As it is in the natural, so it is in the Spirit. When your atmosphere is left unregulated, it stops progression. When atmospheres are stagnating, it leaves room for unwanted elements. In order to properly protect, guard and govern your heart, your atmosphere has to support proper

development for your heart. Guarding your heart is not just about protecting it from outside forces, but also protecting it from inside forces that oppose growth.

## **6. Make daily decrees and faith confessions.**

Making daily faith confessions is a good way to keep your heart and affections in alignment with God's heart. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." The word affection in this verse has a direct connection to the heart. The scripture indicates that affection must be "set." This means that you have to intentionally persuade your heart to believe, think, or focus on something. One of the ways you can set your heart is through daily decrees. What you say is important. What your own ears hear you say is even more important. The Bible reveals that faith comes by hearing. The more you confess God's word and then hear that word the more it sets a shield around your heart.

## **7. Process hurt and disappointment quickly.**

Another way to guard your heart in order to keep a clear line to hear the voice of God is to quickly process hurt and disappointment. If not processed properly, disappointment becomes a cancer to the heart and soul. It's easy for hurt and disappointment to turn into something much worse if not dealt with. People who shelter hurt become cesspools to spread that same hurt onto others. Deep hurt also clouds the spiritual ear from properly hearing from God. When you are hurt you should quickly face that hurt. Admit it and then begin the process of healing from it. This is the reason God gave you emotions. Emotions can be very disastrous if not governed well; however, when they are governed properly they are purposed to help you deal with hurt and disappointment. Become comfortable with allowing yourself to be angry without sinning. Allow yourself to cry when you are upset. Express your emotions quickly and properly. This

helps you to heal. A healed individual is a pure vessel that God can speak to and through.

## **8. Forgive others.**

Lastly, forgiving others is a continual journey that we all must engage in. If you are going to deal with people on this earth you are going to have to learn how to forgive. Forgiveness is not an emotion or feeling. Forgiveness is a decision. It's a choice to not hold someone responsible for what he or she has done. Forgiveness should always be coupled with healing. You could release someone from what they did to you and still be hurt. As mentioned earlier, this is when processing emotion is important. Jesus was asked the question; "How often should you forgive a person?" Jesus answered him, "I say to you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22

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Why is forgiveness important? Forgiveness is essential because if you forgive, then God in heaven will forgive you. In addition, a person who holds a grudge or aught against another becomes bitter. Bitterness changes the way you see and hear spiritually, causing the message that God gives to someone to be received and communicated with a negative or callous slant. God wants to speak to a pure heart that is not defiled with grudges, resentment, and hostility toward others. If you are battling with forgiving someone, make the decision to release the grudge today, because your heart depends on it.

## Chapter 12

### Whose Voice Is Activating You?

First Corinthians 14:10

says, “There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.” This is a key scripture and a main reason why I decided to write this book. There are many voices in the world, which one is influencing you? As a believer, it is paramount to your walk with Christ that you identify the voice that activates you. Many people find it hard to hear the voice of God and to understand when He speaks. That may be due in part to the fact that they don’t know what He sounds like. Distinguishing between voices requires discernment and it is necessary for Christians to have this. The aforementioned verse states that there are many voices in the world. The word for “world” there is kosmos, meaning the world systems, inhabitants of the earth (mankind), and world affairs. These voices influence systems, human beings and the affairs of the world. They all have significance. Signification in the verse comes from the Greek root word phone. It means having a distinct sound (tone), a voice (uttered words), and a speech (language). Let’s explore the three main categories of voices that exist in the kosmos. I will explain the sound, voice, and speech for each one.

## **Sound**

First let’s deal with sound. Sound here refers to tone. Tone is an inflection of the voice with reference to pitch, quality, and strength. In human behavior, tone is the character or attitude of someone. My intention is not to describe the actual audible sound of God’s voice. The emphasis here is not on the pitch but rather the character. The character and attitude of God’s voice is distinct. His tone or “still small voice,” as Elijah experienced it, can be calming to the heart. The

Lord speaks as a loving father would speak to his son; reaffirming, reassuring, and sometimes chastening. God is never scoffing or mocking. Throughout scripture His tone is the same. It is the sound of one who cares for His children; wanting to preserve His children and fellowship with them.

## Voice

God's voice or uttered words are distinctive as well. In ancient rabbinical literature, there are thirteen attributes of God that express His nature and Words and the mercy within His voice. These attributes are found in Exodus 34:6–7, “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty.” These thirteen attributes or Hebrew words reveal detailed characteristics of the Holy Spirit's voice. [Eisenberg, Ronald L. “The 13 Attributes of Mercy.” MyJewishLearning

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The Lord—Yahweh. This expresses the constant, unchanging essence of who God is. When God speaks, the listener is made aware that He is steady, firm, and consistent. His nature is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God does not quickly or easily change His mind. The nature of God is not to tell you one thing this month and then go back on His word next month. The current prophetic environment in society has had a shaky foundation. People will say God said one thing and then say the opposite shortly after. That is not the voice of the Spirit. Yahweh's words are constant and sure even if you don't like the instructions being given. He knew that you wouldn't like it before He said it. His words are



sure and His promises unbreakable. When He speaks, molecules obey and atoms stand at attention awaiting His instructions. Yahweh is supreme.

The Lord—Yahweh. Exodus 34:6 repeats the phrase, “the Lord”. When Hebrew scripture repeats a word or phrase it is meant to emphasize what has already been said. It emphasizes that the character, nature, and core of God does not change. You can firmly trust what He says even when it doesn’t make sense. I have learned that sometimes what God says it not supposed to make sense. What God says is meant to stretch your faith because it is not possible to please Him without faith. His words create a firm foundation for believers to build upon. When He speaks, the overtone of His voice exudes compassion. He intends, desires, and even longs to help those who are in need and care for those that are broken. Within His voice is the reassuring calm that He is there and His hand is outstretched. God is generous towards His people.

God—El. This attribute describes God as the Creator of everything. He is the King of Kings. His name highlights His limitless capacity. This attribute underscores the fact that when God speaks He creates; He brings things into existence. The voice of the Lord is not bound by space, distance, or time. It is beyond the constraints of the world and the scientific laws that govern it. His words carry with them life and wholeness. God does not speak death. Death is the absence of God. If you hear a voice that is shrouded in death, fear, and torment, it is not the voice of God. His voice creates; it does not deteriorate things.

Mercy (Compassion)—Rachum. It is the Hebrew word that is closely connected to the Hebrew word rechem, meaning womb. This word gives the depiction of how a mother would delicately care for her child while in the womb. With that same carefulness, God’s voice covers us in the womb of His Word. The voice of the Spirit is as a skillful surgeon; going into the exact place of the soul that needs it the most. The Old Testament speaks of the Ark of the Covenant, which was a symbol to Israel of the glory and presence of God. According to scripture, the gold lid that covered the ark was known as the mercy seat. This was a sign that

every time the priest would approach the ark to sacrifice on behalf of the people they had to come by way of mercy. On this seat there were two angels facing one another. In the space between them God would appear. There is so much significance in the mercy seat regarding God's voice. For God to speak to humanity at all is an act of mercy. He is not obligated to communicate with us. It is His desire to communicate with His sons and daughters. It is important to remember that when God speaks to you, He is extending His mercy towards you. His voice is a covering for your soul. Upon the sound waves of His voice, angelic forces are released on your behalf to perform the things that God has said to you and concerning you. Psalm 103:20 puts it this way, “. . . ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, harkening unto the voice of his word.” His voice activates angels to move for you by His mercy.

Gracious—Chanan. This attribute means to extend grace and favor to those that do not deserve it. One of the definitions of favor is support and advancement as a sign of approval (Webster's). The voice of the Lord carries support and advancement with the purpose of pushing you ahead. Advancement is to go farther than where you are. It is development and promotion. When God speaks He will often speak to your character and the areas in which you need to grow and make changes. His words will not always be what you want to hear. Sometimes it is correction. Correction is a sign that He loves you and approves of you. He wants you to be your best. So His voice is purposed to develop and promote you to the next level. That is a long process that requires grace.

Slow to Anger—Erek apayim. One of the things I've noticed in my years of ministry is that a lot of Christians think God is mad at them because of areas in their lives that are not in alignment with His will. This foreboding feeling of God's anger will actually inhibit your ability to properly hear from Him. It is human nature to withdraw God if you believe He is angry with you. Adam's reaction after yielding to sin in the Garden is the best example of this. He thought God would be angry so he hid from Him. It is possible that you think God is angry with you so you are hiding from Him spiritually and cannot hear Him when He shows up to speak to you. You must realize that God patiently waits for you to come to a place of repentance. He is slow to anger. He doesn't want to see anyone self-destruct so He patiently draws us to come back to Him.

That is a sign of an amazingly loving Father who is not consumed in anger at His children's wrongdoing, but is concerned and desires to correct them.

Abounding in Lovingkindness—Rav chesed. First John 4:8 says that God is love. He is the essence of sacrifice, unconditional love, and kindness. When the Holy Spirit speaks, the flow of His love is evident. This is a huge indicator in discerning the voice of God. The foundation of everything He says is rooted and grounded in love. It is God's desire to save you and to see you whole and perfected. Even in chastisement, He is so caring that He does not want you to be destroyed. He will correct through His love. Jeremiah 31:3 says “. . . with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” There is power in the love of Jesus. Not only is the love of God an amazing force, but love is a language. Love communicates to the soul and spirit of man. Love can be understood and felt. First Corinthians 13:4–8 explains what love is. Let's look at that scripture through the lens of God's voice. When the Spirit speaks, He is patient and His voice is kind. He does not envy; meaning that He does not emulate or imitate any other. He does not dishonor the things of honor. His voice is not self-seeking but He is interested in the lives of His people. He is not easily angered. In His love, He keeps no record of wrong. He will never speak a word rejoicing in evil doing, but rather He rejoices in speaking the truth at all times. In the Bible, He is called the Spirit of truth. He will always speak to protect, to warn, bring hope, and preservation. He will never speak something to lead you in a wrong direction. By understanding the character of His love, you will be able to discern His voice from another.

Truth—Emet. God is a just God. He reigns in justice and righteousness. As I mentioned earlier, He is known as the Spirit of truth. This means that He is fair and equitable in His judgements. The voice of the Lord will balance the scales in your life. His voice corrects wrongs and brings justice to the disenfranchised. One of the elements of truth is revelation, which is to reveal what was hidden. Sometimes God wants to speak in order to reveal the hidden things. Hidden agendas can be overturned by His words. Likewise, mysteries of His holy scriptures can be revealed through his divine communication. Truth is the uncovering and the unveiling.

Preserver of Kindness for thousands of generations—Notzeir chesed l'alafim. God defends and preserves us with His kindness for thousands of generations. When God speaks, you will hear the concern for generations within His voice. He is not only concerned about the present moment in your life; He is also concerned with your family line. In the Abrahamic Blessing God has made a generational covenant with man. Under the New Covenant, you will never again hear of the destructive wrath of God. It is His desire to save and preserve His people. This is reflective in the voice of God. You will not hear Him speak of desiring to kill nations or groups of people. His voice restores and reconciles people back to Him.

Forgives Iniquity—Nosei avon. Any intentional sin God forgives when we repent of those sins. These are sins that are deliberately planned and premeditated. Yes, even that sin is forgivable. God will speak in spite of those sins. God's voice is always wooing people to repentance in order to receive forgiveness from iniquity. His voice does not turn people away but rather draws people no matter the sin.

Forgives Transgressions—Nosei Pesha. This attribute means that God covers all rebellious sins. This is when a person's heart is completely turned away from God in an area. It could also be when a person is in direct opposition with His will. Through this phase in the scripture, God is saying, "I will forgive the rebellious who come to Me." This is why you will hear of testimonies of God speaking to people that are in sin and rebellious. He still loves them and desires to help them. If you find yourself in a place of rebellion, the voice of the Lord is right there, calling for you to return to Him and be free.

Forgives Sin—Nosei Chataah. The Hebrew meaning of this phrase is God forgives unintentional sin. There are many instances where you may find that you have sinned unknowingly. It wasn't your intention, but you later found that you missed the mark in a certain area. His words even speak to this area of sin.

When God speaks, He will often address your personal sin. This is not done to tear you down. This is to build you up and keep you from falling.

Who Cleanses—Nakeh. Not only does God forgive your sin, but through His words, He can also cleanse your sin. Cleanse means to wash you thoroughly from the effects of sin; to purify. Ephesians 5:26 says, “. . . that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.”

## **What Does the Voice of the Devil (Evil Spirit) Sound Like?**

Just like God’s voice is distinct and has certain character traits that can help you to distinguish it, so is the voice of the enemy or an evil spirit. It is important to identify how the devil speaks and in what forms he may come so that you are not deceived. The root word for devil in the Greek is *diabolos*; meaning “accuser, slanderer”. It can also be defined as “little whispers”. It is important to note that when there is a demonic attack against your mind or your life it may come as little whispers or thoughts into your mind to convince you of something that will directly oppose God’s word and plan for your life. Another definition of the root word for devil is to “to throw across.” Your mind is like a grid in the invisible realm of the Spirit. Devils or demons have access into that realm and their demonic agenda is to throw lies, snares, and set up strongholds (system of thoughts) across (into) the grid of your mind.

John 10:10 gives clear details of how devils or evil spirits speak in whispers. It says, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” To steal is to take what belongs to someone else. An evil spirit knows that in order to convince you of a lie, it must gain illegal access to your mind and convince you to believe the lie, thus to relinquishing your power. The enemy seeks to steal your God-given authority. The voice of a thief is ominous, threatening, and menacing; carrying with it worry, anxiety, and shame. This is the opposite of the voice of the Holy

Spirit. When God speaks, His voice does not bring anxiety, worry, and ill-intent. In warning and correction His voice brings peace. Even in righteous anger, His voice brings love and care. The voice of the enemy will tell you to do things that steal from you your life and enjoyment in Christ.

Further, John 10:10 reveals that the thief comes to kill. The devil's voice has a mission to assassinate purpose, godly relationships, and ultimately people. His words sow seeds of discord, dishonor, and division with a mission to tear down, not to build up. Why would John, the writer of this gospel, feel the need to write each word that he heard Jesus say in describing the devil and his demons? Steal, kill, and destroy are such closely linked words that they might seem repetitive, but they each have distinct meanings. The writer explains further by saying the demonic whisperer comes to destroy people and things. To destroy means to terminate or end something or someone. The voice of the enemy brings premature endings to situations. This voice will try to cause you to end your God-ordained process before its time. When processes, covenants, and relationships are ended before their time, it could potentially cut off a portion of a person's destiny.

Below I've created a short list of adjectives to describe the voice of the devil. Please note that I used the word devil to encompass what we may also refer to as demons, evil spirits, and familiar spirits. Remember his main job is to whisper into the minds of people.

The voice of the devil is:

Alluring—meaning it can appeal to the heart and flesh of people, offering what one may desire.

Seductive—To lead astray (off course) with cunning words, skill and craft.

Ominous—Releasing worry, fear, anxiety, and stress.

Confusing—Creating calamity and doublemindedness.

Evil—Twisting the truth and speaking against the Word of God.

Accurate—Telling of what is happening in a person's life or even future events but with the wrong intent.

## Chapter 13

### Be Careful

#### How You Hear

How you hear

God is greatly influenced by the environment you were raised in and the way your mind has been influenced. Perception affects how you hear the voice of God. When God communicates or speaks to you, He will often speak in parts. He doesn't share the whole picture. "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."

According to 1 Corinthians 13:9, we see in part, and prophesy or speak what God is saying to others in part. To have a part of a message or a picture can be misleading. The human mind is trained to create the missing parts through logical thinking, analysis, and observation. Therefore, it is easy for interpretations of prophecy or divine communication to become diluted by human perception. Some have misunderstood what they heard from God or misinterpreted what they saw by His Spirit. The slightest element of human perception embedded in a word from God can misconstrue the message and spark confusion, misdirection, and circumvent the hearer of that word. The meaning of the word "part" is a piece or segment of something, that when combined with other related pieces make up a whole. It is simply a fragment of a bigger message or picture.

In God's infinite wisdom He knew that fragments of a message could present a temporary quandary or state of uncertainty for the receiver of that message. God then used the apostle Peter to bring greater understanding in this matter. Second Peter 1:19 says, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." To simplify, the phrase is saying, you do well when you take heed to the more sure words that God is saying. Sure is the Greek word *bebaios*, meaning trusty, firm, stable.



A more sure word from God will bring stability and understanding. It does not guarantee that the hearer will like it. However, it does mean that the word is trustworthy or reliable for one to base decisions upon. A sure word from the Lord will stifle confusion because God is NOT the author of confusion. Perhaps, when we seek to hear God's voice we should pray for more sure words; clear and firm words that we may know His ways.

Over ten years ago, the Holy Spirit told me that I would move to another state and start a ministry there. I was so excited about this word because it was revealing a portion of my future. Then I received prophecies from a couple of ministers confirming this word from God. In my presumption, I felt as though it was going to happen in the next year or even sooner. I went to some of my close friends and core members that I pastored at my family church in North Carolina and shared what God had spoken. They were also excited and were ready to move. I began frantically researching the best places to live and start a ministry. I found a few cities in warmer climates. I researched the economy in those cities, the job market, the housing market, and anything else I could think of. I was making all of the right preparations. I zeroed in on a city and thought my future was set. Soon life happened. Needs arose and my focus was placed on life situations. Some of the people left that I thought would never leave. Within a year I had quickly forgotten the word I received from God about relocation.

It is important to keep in mind that God's word takes time to unfold and most of the time, won't look like how you imagined it would. Years later, I would find myself ministering at a training in Minnesota where many people were saved and others recommitted their lives to Christ. As I looked to help some of them find churches in the area, the word of the Lord came to me that I was to move to Minnesota and start a church and disciple them. WHAT??? That was not my plan. I thought I would go to a place that was warmer. Minnesota is one of the coldest states in the U.S. I couldn't see it working at first. At the time, I didn't want to see it work; it wasn't in my projection for my life. And of course it didn't look anything like what I thought it would be years ago when the Lord spoke to me. After a long time, I stopped fighting God on the idea . . . that phrase even seems weird to write. It's really impossible to fight against God's will and win. In time, I came to love Minnesota—the area, the passionate people, and yes, even the weather. God put an assignment in my heart and made me love the place I was called to because I yielded to His will.

Now, let's go back to understanding what it means to have a more sure word. In

my example of hearing God, He first spoke to me about a geographical move. That was a word from the Lord but I didn't have any details. In my human logic I decided that I was going to find the new location by researching the best places to live. As you see, that didn't work. I could not firmly make a decision by only knowing a small part of what God wanted for me. It took time for it to unfold and then I received a clearer word from Him years later.

The word "sure" comes from the Greek root word *basis* meaning "to walk or a stepping; that with which one steps; the foot". Now, *basis* is also an English word meaning "the underlying foundation or support of an idea or process". This speaks volumes to believers of the faith. When a person truly hears God speak to them, it will clearly support God's plan for their life and be in alignment with God's biblical plan for the believer. God will not speak something to you that is against His written word (the Bible). When God speaks, it presents a firm foundation that one can build upon. To build is to establish and develop over a period of time. A sure word from the Lord will develop in your life over time. You can build on or establish a prophetic word by confessing it, praying, and speaking over it. Believers are instructed by the words of the apostle Paul to put them in remembrance of God, meaning to meditate on them in continual prayer before the Lord.

Second Timothy 2:14 says, ". . . charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit." To charge means to command them. When God gives you prophetic words, speak them authoritatively and command them boldly before the Lord. This is how you establish God's words in the earth. Any time God releases His divine words in the earth, it is Satan's desire to steal them. Jesus addresses this issue in the parable of the sower found in Matthew chapter 13. He explains that a sower plants the seeds. These seeds are compared to the word of God. Some seeds fall on the wrong type of ground but do not take root and are not established. Other seeds are plucked out by birds or choked by thorns and briars. Then there are those seeds that are planted (established) on good ground and produce fruit. Words from God are cultivated by being planted properly on good ground. That is the only way they can be established.

Luke 8:18 informs believers to be careful how you hear. The primary focus for God's people should be in what they hear, not only how they hear. The human heart and mind acts as a translator to the words that God speaks. How you hear is just as important as what you hear. The four types of ground in the parable of the sower represent four ways to hear, three of which are the wrong ways to hear

and one is the right way. The wayside or road is a path that is commonly trampled on and represents hearing and perceiving through the lens of the crowd. When you take what God says and try to conform it to what people want or what is popular, it opens the door for devouring birds of prey (human or evil influences) to eat away at the word that God originally spoke. Then there is hearing God's word and receiving it on stony ground. Stony ground is symbolic of a hard heart. The heart of a person could be hardened for many reasons, such as doubt, unbelief, bitterness, forgiveness, rebellion, or disobedience. When you are in a state of hardness toward God's will it is very difficult to receive from Him. Your hearing can be distorted. On stony ground the words of God cannot take root. There is no depth. So even though some manifestation may be shown, when life's trials come it deteriorates those words because they were not sown in a deep foundation.

Then there are thorns. Thorns are also known as spines or prickles. They are the sharp, hard, rigid extension of leaves, stems, or roots. They are used as a defense mechanism for the plant in order to keep unwanted organisms out. Likewise, a person with a thorny heart will hear from a place of defensiveness. Naturally, that person's mind will fight against things that God is saying. The human perception may subconsciously twist the truth. The Bible says that the thorns choke the seeds. In other words, communication from God cannot live in a thorny heart. The thorns will alter the truth. This altered reality can create things that God didn't say and change the meaning of what God actually said. The wholeness of your soul matters when it comes to hearing the voice of God. When a person's soul is broken it can greatly damage one's perception and distort their spiritual hearing.

The last level of hearing depicted in the parable is good ground. The Greek word for good is kalos; meaning honest, well, and worthy. The hearer can receive communication from God when the heart (soul) is well, honest, and worthy (valuable and virtuous).

Perception is the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.

Spiritual perception can only be sharpened by the Holy Spirit and through the written Word of God. Growth and maturity in God galvanizes spiritual perception. Just as there are natural senses there are parallel spiritual senses:

**See**—To see is to perceive with the eyes or the ability to discern visually. Spiritual sight can often manifest itself through dreams and visions (mental pictures). Sight is symbolic of mental acuity.

**Hear**—To hear is the ability of the ear to capture sound. Scripturally, air is spirit. Therefore, sound is heard when there is motion or movement of spirit. The prophet should be trained to hear and obey the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit does not just speak with His mouth; He speaks with vibrations and movement.

**Smell**—Smell is the faculty or power of perceiving scents or odors, which is done by means of the organs within the nose (Oxford). Figuratively, an odor can be described as a lingering feeling, quality, or impression attached to something. To perceive this type of figurative odor or scent is known as discernment. The spiritual sense of smell is the ability to discern between good and evil, or right and wrong.

**Touch**—To touch is to come into direct contact with something. It is the ability to feel something. When your hand touches an object, it sends sensations or vibrations through your sensory nerves. Your brain then processes these sensations and you are able to perceive how something feels. Just as there is the ability to touch something naturally, there is also the ability to touch something spiritually; that is to come into direct contact with someone or something and experience it.

**Taste**—Psalm 34:8 proclaims, “O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. This scripture directly links taste to sight. Although

it is perceived as foolish in this natural world, we have the ability to taste and consume the word of God. Taste is the ability to perceive flavor with the mouth and throat.

The way you see yourself and others shapes your perception. When it comes to releasing words of prophecy, words of knowledge, and other prophetic expressions your perception of God's message is vital to the accuracy of that message. The way you see yourself and the way you see others greatly affects your perception. That is why it is important to see yourself through the eyes of God. This is not something that happens overnight. Your mind must be retrained to line up with the written word of God. For instance, some people see themselves as being ugly, worthless, dumb, or just never enough. Although God does not see you this way, if you believe it then it will show when you minister to others. You will try to identify something ugly about them or their personality. You will try to find something worthless about the person you are ministering to. This is NOT the heart of God. I encourage prophets to allow God to change their perception and learn to bring out the good in others. This is scriptural because even God says that His thoughts toward His people are good and not evil (See Jeremiah 29:11). As a prophet, you must learn to see the good in others and show it to them. Once they see it they will start living up to it!

## **Change Your Perception of Yourself**

Self-prejudice is a major limiting factor to the minds of God's chosen ones. It has kept many people from being who God says they can be. It has hindered destinies and devoured dreams, leaving its victims ravaged with insecurities. Insecurity is the breeding ground for self-prejudice. Self-prejudice exaggerates flaws and magnifies weaknesses. It carries with it false humility and spirits of self-pity and fear. Self-prejudice is the hatred of self, projected through hostility,

anger, and brutal criticism. This is the one enemy that cannot be defeated by mere sermons and basic prayers—it requires a complete reconstruction of the mind.

We all have heard about the mighty warrior named Gideon. When I hear his name I think of a valiant man and biblical hero, but Gideon was not always a mighty warrior. He didn't always feel worthy of that title. The truth is Gideon battled with self-prejudice. There was a time in his life when he was an insecure man, unsure of his calling. Sound familiar? At some point in everyone's life we find ourselves in the same place as Gideon. This is the place where the epic battle between God and your perception of yourself occurs.

In Judges chapter 6, after years of oppression under the Midianites, Israel cried unto Lord for deliverance. The Lord heard their cry and chose a warrior prophet (Gideon).

Judges 6:12–14

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?

The above passage of scripture shows Gideon questioning God. The verses show God having to persistently convince Gideon that he was called, chosen, and sent by God. Just like many of us, Gideon plays the overused “why” card. “God if you have chosen me then why is my situation like this? God if you chose me then why don't I see the provision? God if you have chosen me then why did you allow me to go through this? “

These are some of the questions that we hurl at God from a slingshot of self-

prejudice. Self-prejudice asks “why me?” You must understand that God chose you because of his own will and pleasure. It was nothing you did right or wrong, He just knew that you were the one for the job!

Out of self-prejudice Gideon continues his cries of pity.

Judges 6:15–16

And he said unto him, Oh my Lord wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Manasseh and I am the least in my father's house. And the

Lord

said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.

Gideon repeatedly questions God's plan and even uses his family background as an excuse. Because Gideon's family was poor he thought that would be a hindrance in God's plan. However, it did not change God's response. Social status, financial income, and even childhood environments cannot hinder the plan of God for your life. What God said about you from the beginning has NOT changed. You are royalty to God regardless of what you see around you. You must believe that and ask God to show you your worth. When you see your worth you will stop devaluing yourself with demeaning words and expressions. You will begin to appreciate yourself and see yourself through the eyes of God. In the eyes of God you are fearfully and wonderfully made. In the eyes of God you have been perfected and made completely whole. Your perception of yourself has change in order to walk in the fullness of your calling! It is imperative to eradicate sin from your life. Sin removes your ability to see the greatness that God has placed within you. It blinds you to who you really are.

## Change your perception of others

In the book of John there is recorded an encounter that Jesus has with a man named Nathanael. Philip, the disciple, goes to tell Nathanael of Jesus the Messiah. Having never met Jesus, Nathanael speaks negatively about Him. However, this does not affect Jesus' good words to Nathanael.

John 1:45–47 (

niv

)

Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

Jesus drew out the good in Nathanael just by speaking the right words. He could have told Nathanael that he heard what he said about him or even angrily pierce him with words. Jesus, being all wise, understood that it would be better to speak life to him. He perceived that Nathanael was a man of truth and he brought that to light. Take a look at how this simple acknowledgement changed Nathanael's life.

John 1:49



Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God: you are the king of Israel.”

This example shows that your perception of others will change their perception of you. Because Jesus spoke the good thoughts of God concerning Nathanael, he was able to see Jesus in a whole new light. He was able to see who Jesus really was.

As a prophet, you should take note of this because you will have the opportunity to speak life or death. You will either kill people with your words or bring them to life. We will all be held accountable for our actions and what we say. Even when God tells his messenger to release a corrective word, correction is always intended to build up. A prophet’s assignment is never just to tear down and destroy things; the most important part is the “building up” in which prophets are commissioned to do (see Jeremiah 1:9–10). Even in judgment, God offers forgiveness and admonishes repentance from old ways. You should always remember that the foundation of prophecy and prophetic ministry is love.

[Chapter 14](#)  
[The Voice of](#)  
[Many Waters](#)

God's voice is

described in many ways in scripture. Each description carries a symbolic property that gives understanding to how God speaks. Have you ever been to the beach and heard the ocean waters crashing on the shore? There are endless ebbs and flows of the tide. It's as if the ocean is alive. It's a humongous entity that beats like a heart. The Bible describes the sound coming from heaven and even the voice of God in this way. Revelations 14:2 "And I heard a voice from heaven as the voice of many waters." Water is a symbol of life. Without water it is impossible for life as we know it to exist. Water is the foundational element for all of life. Water makes up over 70% of the human chemical makeup and covers over 80% of the earth. The voice of God should be that significant to us. It is the voice of God that is essential and key to our very survival. Without His voice we cannot live.

Matthew 4:4 says, "It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." To proceed speaks of an ongoing process. Of course, God still speaks today. Words are still coming from His mouth and we are meant to live by those words. Just like water, it is life to the soul and spirit of man. Simply put, God's words bring life.

When I'm seeking God or taking time away to pray, I like to be near water. I am drawn to the voice of the Lord, and His voice is even clearer in those times when I am near the water. I've also been to some of the best beaches in the world—from the beautiful beaches of Sarasota, to the white sand Mediterranean beaches in Israel, and the relaxing beaches in Barcelona, Spain. I can remember praying near an amazing tropical beach in the Dominican Republic. I noticed that no matter where I am in the world the ocean water still functions the same, and yet it is unpredictable. The moment you think you figured out how far the water will come on the shore; it pushes past that boundary. You can't know how big the

next wave is going to be or if the water will be calm next day. In the same manner, God cannot be placed in a box that predicts what He will say or how He will say it. When God speaks, you cannot determine what situation He may or may not address. He declares what is on His mind not always what is on ours. Although we can entreat Him in through prayer, fasting and worship, His speaking can be spontaneous. Just like water, you cannot predict His flow. Water is fluid, which means that it has the ability to take on the shape of the vessel that it is in. If you keep pouring water into a vessel, ultimately it will fill that vessel and overflow from it.

I have been to many states and countries ministering the Word of the Lord with all kinds of different cultures, styles of communication and backgrounds. What I have come to realize is that God's voice takes on the form of the vessel that it's in, just like water. In other words, God speaks to and through people according to their style, level of knowledge, and communication. Because of this, when God wanted to speak through Daniel concerning governmental things, He allowed him to be taken captive in Babylon to learn the empire's system (Daniel 1:3–5). He was placed in one of the top learning institutions in the world to learn how to speak the language of the Chaldeans. Daniel had to study all kinds of science and become knowledgeable in governmental issues. He had to become skillful so that he could stand before the king and deliver a message from God. My point is, God generally speaks to you according to the level of knowledge you have. The more you learn and grow in Him, the more you will hear and understand.

## **Properties of water—Hearing God's voice**

As I mentioned earlier, ocean water has ebbs and flows. It crashes into the shore and then it recedes. God's voice can be just like that. Sometimes God speaks all at once like a rush of water, and then other times his voice recedes. These are ebbs and flows. What you learn about ocean water is the further back it goes, the more powerful and greater the wave will be when it hits. When you have been in a long season of earnest prayer waiting for God to speak but you have not heard Him; just know that a wave is coming!

Water is made up of a collection of smaller drops of water. Two properties of water are cohesion and adhesion. Cohesion is the attraction of water molecules to other water molecules (khana). With this strong cohesive force, water molecules create surface tension. This means that water has a tendency to resist being ruptured when placed under tension, stress or pressure. The hydrogen and oxygen bonds are so cohesive, making it difficult to break. This is a prophetic analogy of the voice of the Holy Spirit and how He bonds with believers. His voice is living in you even when you don't feel or hear Him. The Holy Spirit takes possession of His people. In water science, it is called a cohesive bond; in the bible it's called COVENANT. The voice of God has such a bond and covenant with us that it cannot be broken through tension, stress, and pressure.

Water adhesion is the attraction of water molecules to other kinds of molecules. This gives water the ability to at times go against gravity. Like water, the voice of God is an entity in and of itself that can attach itself to other molecules. Everything in the earth is made up of molecules, including the human body. If you look at the voice of God as an entity and not just a sound or a thing, you will understand how the voice of God operates. When He speaks, His words create, form, and attach to molecules. Isn't that amazing? The voice of God is literally living in you. This is why the Bible says in Isaiah 55:11 " . . . so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

The voice of God carries His words and His words are living breathing organisms. They are not empty, but they are full of power and will accomplish all they are sent to do. The more you understand this, the more you will understand and know how valuable it is to hear the voice of the Lord. Every time He speaks, molecules move and obey!

## Chapter 15

### Frequency

If you grew

up before the 2000's then you'll remember what it was like riding in your car and trying to get a clear radio signal as you search through the different frequencies or channels to find your favorite station. Radio frequency refers to "the rate of oscillation of electromagnetic radio waves in the range of 3 kHz to 300 GHz, as well as the alternating currents carrying the radio signals" (Techopedia). A radio frequency refers to the frequency band that transmits wireless telecommunication signals.

There are many factors that could stop clear communication. Bad reception could hinder a clear signal. Spiritually, a person could have something in his or her life that is hindering them from clearly receiving from God. I remember growing up wrestling with turning the radio antenna; constantly changing the direction of the antenna until I was able to get good reception. Likewise, the receiver or person may have to reposition his or her spiritual posture in order to clearly hear from God.

Hidden sin in your heart can block spiritual communication. It takes purity to unblock the signal. It is important to always keep a heart of repentance towards God. Sometimes there are things that you have done that could possibly offend the Holy Spirit without even realizing it. The more you grow in your love for God, the more you will develop sensitivity to what grieves Him and what pleases Him. Being free from sin puts you on a frequency to clearly hear the voice of the Lord.

"And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision." (1 Samuel 3:1)

Let's take a closer look at the life of Samuel. The verse indicates that Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. This was a period in biblical history when there was no open vision. In other words, revelation had been shut up. There was

no fresh word; there was no progressive revelation. Eli, the priest, could not even see. His eyes had begun to wax dim. This is a reference to his natural and spiritual sight. The word vision in the text is the Hebrew word *chazown*, meaning divine communication. Heaven was not speaking to earth. God chose a boy who would become a great prophet named Samuel to change this. First Samuel 3:7 says, Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.”

This passage of scripture enlightened me. It shows that you can be called into prophetic ministry and even minister in the house of God, and still not know the Lord. To know Him is to have an intimate relationship with Him. Samuel served in God’s house before the Word of the Lord was ever revealed to him and before he received an open vision. I believe that Samuel could not speak as an oracle of God until he first served. Serving is foundational and postures you like an antenna to be aligned with the signal of heaven.

Samuel represented a pure vessel being sanctified and set a part; he represented prophetic purity returning to Israel. When purity comes into your life there will be a clear frequency to hear the words of the Lord. It is also possible to be tuned into a spiritual channel or frequency that is not of God. The spirit world can be much like radio waves. If you feed your spirit with things that are not godly, those things have your ear. In this case, it is important to **CHANGE THE FREQUENCY!** Shift from dark communication to receiving the light of God.

I’m using the analogy of signals and frequency to simply explain ways that you can be blocked from properly communicating with God. The point is to remove all barriers to communication. Here are six barriers to communication used in the business world that can also be used to help us spiritually:

**Filtering** is the distortion or withholding of information in order to manage reactions and change responses. It is imperative to hear God without adding or taking away from his written or spoken word. When you filter what He says through your own mind and emotions you will always misconstrue His heart and intentions.

**Selective perception refers to filtering what we see and hear to suit our own needs. This process is often unconscious. The way you were raised or even your experiences in life can cause you to have selective perception or reception.**

**Information overload (receiving too much information in a limited time) can be defined as, “occurring when the information processing demands on an individual’s time to perform interactions and internal calculations exceed the supply or capacity of time available for such processing” (Schick, et. al., 1990). When your life is too cluttered and there are too many voices in your ear, it is impossible to hear from the Lord. As human beings, we have limited capacity to take in information. If the voice of God is not activating you, then another voice is.**

**Emotional disconnects happen when a person is upset, whether about a current subject or about some unrelated incident that may have happened. Life situations and circumstances can cause warfare and emotionally disconnect a person from God. The way to combat becoming emotionally disconnected is to feed on the word of God and spend time worshipping Him. This strengthens your faith through emotionally turbulent times.**

**Lack of source familiarity or credibility is sharing information without proper foundation or relationship with the receiver. In the business world this is trying to have personal (serious or even joking) conversation with someone that doesn’t know you well. Spiritually speaking, when we don’t have relationship with God, we cannot expect to speak to Him as if we do. It is important to know your source. If you want to hear from God, get to know Him.**

**Semantics is the study of meaning in communication. Words can mean different things to different people, or they might not mean anything to another person. When it comes to having a close relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Bible**

teaches us how to pray and communicate with Him. We are to pray His words back to Him. Remind Him of the promises He has given to you (Isaiah 62:6).

Removing the barriers to communication with God will allow you to properly hear from Him and posture yourself in alignment with heaven.



## Chapter 16

### The Walking Voice

**And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.**

**—Genesis 3:8**

This verse of

scripture is one of the most intriguing verses in the whole Bible and personifies the voice of God. The translation infers that Adam and Eve literally heard God's voice walking in the Garden of Eden. Adam had such intimacy with God that He would walk with the voice of the Lord in the cool of the day. He was so connected to Him that Adam knew the sound of the walking voice from a distance. I believe it is possible that you can be so close to the Holy Spirit that you are sensitive to His slightest movement. God talking with Adam in the cool of the day was not just intimacy, but it was times of learning and growing. When the Holy Spirit walks with you, it is His desire to teach you His ways, to show you His plans, and to impart His instructions. When we miss spending time with God, we miss time to grow and learn more about him. The key to learning the voice of God and getting to know Him is spending time in His presence.

I've heard it said so many times that God wants to walk with you wherever you go. But God did not walk with Adam. Adam walked with God. There is a difference. God is looking for someone who is willing to walk with Him; to go on the journey of a lifetime. You see, the more I've gotten to know God and

learned His voice, the more I've understood that this is a once in a lifetime journey. It's not my plans; I would never have chosen this path in life. It's not my will; I've had my own desires. I've grown to love the ways of the Lord. Walking with Him is the best decision you could ever make. Here are three keys to intimacy with God that may help you grow in hearing Him more clearly.

**Intentional Time**—Set aside time to fellowship with God. If this is not something that you are used to, then start small and build up. Incorporate fellowship with the Holy Spirit into your everyday life. God doesn't just want to be a part of your life. He wants you to live in His life and world.

**Listen**—Many people say they want to hear God speak to them but they don't take time to listen in His presence. After you have prayed and shared your heart, take time to sit in a quiet space and just listen for His thoughts, impressions, and communication.

**Follow Him**—Following God is about letting the Spirit of God lead your life. There are many Christians in the world but less that are willing to be led of the Spirit. Learn to love His instructions and commandments. Always remember that love is not a feeling, it is a decision based on a commitment called a covenant.

I hope and pray that this book has been a blessing to you and can serve as a tool to cause you to pursue God voraciously.

## Chapter 17

### Emerging Prophets

There is an

emergence of refined prophets and prophetic companies that we will see come forth in the earth over the next decade. Whenever the Lord brings in a new move of the Spirit and a new era of ministry, He releases a unique anointing and sound through a remnant of His prophets. These prophets are coming to purify current structures, models, and operations; this will set in motion heaven's agenda in the earth. What does this new breed of purifying prophets look like? They preach holiness and call the people back to God. They are anointed to release the refining fire of the Holy Spirit within the Body of Christ. These bold and unapologetically consecrated prophets will call people back to the altar and back to prayer. They will have accuracy of gift and detailed prophetic utterance, but their focus will be on calling people into right alignment with God.

The word purity means freedom from contamination. Prophets that bring purity are like agents that cleanse the body of infection, corruption, and uncleanness. These emerging prophets will be agents of change. Many of you reading this book are the agents of change that God is raising up. Agents of change are called as disrupters in the church and in the world systems. It's important that you begin to see the new model of prophetic companies as those that are not contained to a church system. Prophets have been called to nations (people groups) and kingdoms (systems). Jeremiah 1:10 says, "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."

If you are a purifying prophet, then there are several things that God requires and expects you to do. Jeremiah's journey and assignment is somewhat of a blueprint for you. Jeremiah's sphere of authority was over the nations and kingdoms. This meant that he was responsible for speaking the words of God to kings and heads of government. God entrusted Jeremiah with that huge responsibility, therefore the persecution was greater. How do I know that God had elevated Jeremiah to the rank of kings and heads of government? Well, Jeremiah 1:18 says, "For

behold, I have made thee (Jeremiah) this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.” The kings, princes, priests, and people were all housed in a kingdom and God set Jeremiah over them.

Your spiritual authority is not often matched with your natural status or level in society. It is amazing that Jeremiah could be set over the nations and kingdoms at such a young age. Although you may not have authority over nations and kingdoms, you still have some level of authority. Your level of authority may be to govern your household and family. Or you may be recognized as a prophet and given authority to speak the words of God to your local church. Whatever level of authority you have it should be regarded as an awesome responsibility.

Furthermore, God set Jeremiah over the nations and kingdoms to do six things. These six things are vital to any prophetic ministry. They will also shed light on the scope of the prophetic ministry. Take a look at Jeremiah 1:10 in its entirety: “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.” At each level of authority you are given this same assignment. The first time I really read this passage of scripture I didn’t completely understand it. However, it sounded quite drastic to me. What did God mean by all of this rooting out, pulling down, destroying, throwing down, building and planting?

The first instruction that God gave Jeremiah was to root out. There are several definitions of root, the first being the persistent underground part or component of a plant. Another definition of root is the part of a thing attaching it to a greater or more fundamental whole; the end or base. It is also the place where something originates. Thus, God was telling Jeremiah that he set him over the nations to take out the hidden (underground) base where sin, idol worship, and rebellion against God originated. During the time period when God spoke this to Jeremiah, the people were rejecting God and turning to idols. Therefore, God raised up Jeremiah to deal with the corruption that was deep within the land.

Root out is *nathash* in the Hebrew and it means to pull up, expel, and pluck up. This is the assignment that is given to the true prophets of God. Prophets have been called to dig deep within the ground and pull out the roots of sin and corruption. This is done by releasing the sword of the Lord; that is the word of God.

The second thing God appointed Jeremiah to do is pull down. Pull means to exert force in order to move something towards oneself. It is interesting that the Hebrew word for pull down (nathats) means to cast down. Doesn't that sound familiar? The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:4–5, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." This scripture expresses that God has given his people the ability to pull down strongholds. So what are strongholds? Strongholds are systems of thought, ideas, and agendas that are fortified by demonic spirits attached to people, and principalities over cities. As Jeremiah was commanded to pull them down, so also are the current prophets of God.

The third thing that Jeremiah was appointed to do is to destroy. That sounds very brutal, however; our God is a warrior and so are His prophets. Warriors are called to fight in the Spirit. Destroy in the Hebrew is the word abad and it means to put to death. It also denotes divine judgment. In the Old Testament, the prophets were known as judges. They were responsible for judging the matters of the people. They had the authority to pronounce life or death. Although most current day prophets are not appointed as natural judges, prophets have been called as spiritual judges. Prophets have been given spiritual authority to pronounce life or death. Proverbs 18:21 informs us that, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof." In other words, prophets speak (death) against the powers of the enemy and pronounce (life) the words of God.

The fourth thing that God commanded Jeremiah to do is throw down. In the Amplified version of the Bible, the word overthrow is used. Overthrow means to remove forcibly from power. Herein lays another assignment given to prophets. Prophets have been called to remove principalities and powers of darkness that govern communities, territories, and regions. Prophets are like God's law enforcement agents. God legislates the laws and the prophets enforce them. Prophets speak God's instructions and commandments with the backing of the heavenly government. A prophet is simply an ambassador or representative of God and His Kingdom. In the Hebrew throw down is harac and it means to tear down, overthrow, and break through.

The fifth assignment given to Jeremiah is to build. Build means to construct something by putting parts and materials together over a period of time. What

are prophets called to build on the earth? Prophets are called to build God's Kingdom through building people. Prophets build people by speaking the words of God that bring edification, confirmation, and encouragement. Anytime God sends his servant to tear something down he will always send his servant to build something in its place.

The last thing God told Jeremiah to do is to plant. Prophets plant the words of God into the hearts of people. Plant simply means to place a seed in the ground so that it can grow. As a prophet, I plant a lot spiritual seeds. However, the results are not always immediate. God may tell me to speak a word in one season and it doesn't produce until months or even years later. First Corinthians 3:7 says, "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." When prophets plant or speak God's words, it is God who will perform the words that were spoken!

The life of Jeremiah speaks volumes concerning the ministry of the prophet. Jeremiah suffered, was rejected, and persecuted, yet he followed the will of God. God always brought Jeremiah through the great trials that he endured. His life typifies the ministry and purpose of a prophet.

*Chapter 18*  
*The Testimony*  
*of Jesus*

I have shared

about the lives many figures and powerful people that God used throughout the scriptures to convey His messages as His voice in the earth, but there is only one true ministry in the Bible that is the epitome of a pure prophetic ministry. The ultimate example is the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Bible is clear that Jesus is God personified in human form (John 1:1–14). Jesus walked in all five-fold ministry positions: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. One of the most notable of His positions was that of a prophet. Jesus was the greatest prophet to walk the earth. Moses prophesied that He would come. “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him” (Deuteronomy 18:18,

nkjv

). This was fulfilled in the New Testament with the ministry of Jesus referenced in Luke 7:16: “Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us;’ and, ‘God has visited His people.’”

Jesus was a peculiar person. The prophetic word that Isaiah gave concerning Him says, “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). This is a very interesting description of the Messiah given many years before He would ever be born supernaturally through a virgin. The Bible says, “He has no form nor comeliness.” The word form in the Hebrew means beauty. In other words, He was not amazingly handsome. In His human body he was not beautiful to look at. This scripture is intriguing to me because God could have come to save the earth in any form. He could have come looking like a king. He could have come

as the most handsome person in the world, but instead He chose to come into the world looking less than common. The ministry of Jesus teaches us that we should not look at the outward appearance when it comes to credible prophetic ministry. It is the heart of a man that determines his worth and value. There are many prophets that don't come in the form or package that others would expect. They are often rejected, looked over, and voted least likely to succeed. God specializes in using people that others would never expect.

In Matthew 13:57, Jesus refers to Himself as a prophet. "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house." Jesus Himself infers that He had no honor in his country and in his own house. Some translations say, amongst His "kin." These three areas are vital for prophets to overcome. Prophets may be rejected from their country. This represents that place that you live but also the government that is over you. There are many prophets throughout our time that were rejected from their country. They were not honored or well received.

Prophets may not be honored in their house. Your house represents your birth place, town, and those that are most familiar to you. This is further expressed in the third area that Jesus mentioned that prophets may be rejected by kin or family. The deepest level of rejection is to be dismissed by family. All prophets must experience this to some degree. Jesus taught how to love and continue on anyway.

As a prophet, the most important thing Jesus did was preach the gospel. He shared the good news that the Kingdom of heaven was at hand, and if they would believe on Him they could be saved. The greatest message that prophets and prophetic people could bring is the message of the gospel. Pure prophetic ministry will bear the fruit of repentance and salvation. Always check the fruit when judging the ministry of a prophet. If the prophetic ministry is bringing chaos, division, and drawing people away from God; then that ministry is contaminated. A prophetic ministry is most pure when it is directing people back to God through Jesus Christ. All of our flowing in spiritual gifts should point people to Jesus. One of the most powerful Scriptures on the prophetic can be found in Revelation 19:10: "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (emphasis added by author) The testimony of Jesus, is the spirit of prophecy. This means that prophecy is one of the greatest attributes of the gospel



message.

Prophecy testifies of Christ and His marvelous work on the cross. Every time you prophecy from the Holy Spirit you are witnessing of Jesus in the earth. Wow, that is amazing! That is what makes the ministry of the prophet so vital to the success and effectiveness of the church worldwide. When prophets minister authentically they are glorifying God and bringing light and hope to all who hear. When the prophetic is purified it will bring revival and awakening to the world.

## Notes

Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible—This one volume commentary was prepared by Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset and David Brown and published in 1871.