

## FOUNDATIONS FOR PROPHETIC GROWTH

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### GROWING IN THE PROPHETIC

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Praise God. We are going to start tonight our series on "Growing In The Prophetic." Tonight I'm going to cover a lot of general information, but it will help you and I believe it will help lay a foundation for us as we continue this series, however long it takes. We're not going to just learn, we're going to do. Because Jesus called the disciples that they might be with them, that He might also give them authority and send them forth. So we're going to do all those things. We're going to learn, but we are going to do also. We're going to see that the Spirit of God is with us, in us and among us. We're going to hear from the Lord and we're going to trust in Him. We're going to learn how to discern the Spirit of God. We're going to learn how to give a word. We're going to learn to, at least to interpret, because interpretations belong to the Lord our God. So there are a lot of things we're going to get into.

One thing we do know is that the Lord does speak to us. Some people believe that He many years ago used to speak a lot until He filled up a Book, then He had that written and then He stopped speaking. I don't believe that. If you do I'm not going to try to convince you any different, just don't give me a hard time, alright? Because I believe He still speaks today and I believe He still leads us in the way we should go. His Word is a light unto our path and a lamp unto our feet and any true prophetic word is a word from God and it should be treasured. The Word of God that we have is a more sure word of prophecy. All prophecy should be judged according to the Scripture, however we need specific word. If the Lord could speak to Ananias and say, "Go out your door. Turn on the street called Straight. Go down there. You are going to find a man. Tell him what his name is. Tell him what he is going to do and even tell him how to pray for that man so he would be healed. Tell him what he is called to do..." God is the same God today as He was then. He can speak to us just as specifically as He did then, and He will. We will see the same things and we are seeing the same things that they saw in the early church.

The true prophetic word, not only does it look to the future, but it also prepares us for the future. The reason we find ourselves unprepared many times is because we are not hearing from the Lord, we're not walking prophetically, we're not listening to the prophetic word, we're not receiving the prophetic word. So we are going to change that.

The church is changing to receive those words that are spoken from God. God speaks through His people.

There was a time years ago before the day of Pentecost when primarily God spoke through His prophets and His priests, those that He put the Spirit upon. But there were others also, Simeon, Mary, Elizabeth, Hanna and many others would receive the Spirit and could speak prophetic words. But, generally speaking, the people of God had to come to the prophet to hear what God was saying. Now we still have prophets today, but unlike then we have the Spirit of Christ, all of us. We are a nation and should be a kingdom of prophets, priests and kings, all of us. Now I don't mean to say that we are all going to have a kingdom and have servants. We are all prophets in the five-fold sense of the word and we are all priests to the point that we would all go out and kill goats to sacrifice. However, we are priests in a sense that we all now can bring living sacrifice to the Lord Jesus in terms of our own life. We all are kings in that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings and when we submit to Him we are the kings that He is "Kings" over. It says if we will be faithful in the little things, He will make us faithful in much and He will give to us if we will not bury our talent in one day, He will put us over cities or many cities depending on what His choice is. But, our job is to be faithful in what He's given us, right? And we are all prophets in the sense that we all may prophesy because we all have the Spirit of God. We don't have to be prophets in the five-fold apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher sense, but that we have the spirit of prophecy. So we may speak the oracles of God. Every Christian has that ability.

There are a number of things I want to go over. There are many, many more, but things that I want to point out about the prophetic as we get a foundation laid here.

1. The prophetic gives us wisdom. The number one thing I want to say about the prophetic is that it brings and give to us vision. What we find is that in our lives when we are distracted that leads us to discouragement. Discouragement leads us to deception. Deception leads us to destruction. But when we receive vision from the Lord, we break that cycle. When we have no vision that is the cycle we are always in.

Proverbs 28:18 says, Where there is no revelation (or vision) the people cast off restraint. The people are perishing for lack of vision. But happy is he who keeps the law. Those of us that will receive vision through the prophetic word will be happy. We will not be perishing. We will not be in the cycle that leads to destruction. We will not be distracted, but we will have our eyes on the Lord. We'll have that voice as it says in Isaiah (30:21) that comes up behind us and says, This is the way, walk ye in it. We will walk in it. And we'll not lean to the left nor to the right. Because of that word which comes and is brought to us that we might walk in His ways.

When Ezra (You can read it in the book of Ezra.) returned to Jerusalem he found a remnant of people who had been living for eighty years in the ruins of what use to be because they had no vision. We find in the church today that many people are sitting in the ruins of what use to be hoping for something different but they have no vision. Prophetic brings the vision. Not everybody will get out of those ruins, but many will.

There are many that are sick and tired of sitting in those ruins , sick and tired of sitting amongst those burned stones and they'd rather be building with those burned stones as they did in Jerusalem. When we bring the prophetic word in, it gets people a vision and a hope. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. When people have a clear hope they automatically will have the faith and they will begin to rise up because God promises that in His Word. If we will give Him the vision , that will be the hope and the faith will rise up if we will be faithful. Things will begin to change and we'll stop sitting.

It reminds me of the leper sitting at the gates of Samaria, Why sit we here until we die? That is really the cry of many people that I meet. "Why sit we here until we die?" Many Christians are tired of sitting and the prophetic word brought in will bring a vision which will set a direction and people will be able to get up and they will go because as we said earlier, "It matter not to God if He saves by many or by few." What we will find though as we get up many will be getting up. It might be a trickle at first, depending upon where you are, but it definitely will not stay that way. Because of the days in which we live and the harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few. We are living in a day and time when we are listening to what the Lord said two-thousand years ago, which as we are praying for the Lord of the harvest to send laborers and by the prophetic word we are raising up laborers and we are setting a vision and they are going forth into their callings. We are raising up an army. We've neglected the prophetic and lost our way and our gifts along with our way. But we should not base our expectations of the future on what we have experienced in the past, but on God's promises. If we do, we will continue to allow the enemy to define for us the boundaries instead of allowing God to define for us our boundaries. But, if we will release the prophetic we will see that it gives us authority to tear down strongholds, to break captivity, to bring a release and a birth. It breaks the strongholds of fear and helplessness that have been holding back the people of God.

1 Corinthians 12:31 says, But earnestly desire the best gifts. Now he goes on to talk about the more excellent way which is love. But in no way can you say that he's saying, "If you have love that you should not have the gifts in operation." We need the gifts in operation. He says to earnestly desire" , to covet after those things , the best gifts , those gifts that can bring blessings and if you understand what Paul is saying, "If you really walk in love, you will desire those gifts, but it won't be as some of those in the church in Corinth were using them for their own pride, but you'll be desiring them to bring blessings to the church." So if we truly are listening to what he says in 1 Corinthians 13 , to walk in love , then we will do what he says in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 which is desire the gifts and to manifest the gifts for the people of God to be edified and built up, correct? Praise God.

1 Corinthians 14:1 says, Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. Especially that you may prophesy , the context of what Paul's talking about here is in the church , especially in the church we ought to have prophecy because it builds up the church. It brings the word from heaven to our ears. 1 Corinthians 14:39 says, Therefore brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy and don't forbid to speak in tongues and especially if we interpret because we are edified as we receive the word from heaven. Forbid not to speak with tongues. Desire earnestly to prophesy. Now I know people that don't read that verse. I know entire denominations that cut that out. I'm not going to go

into that because I'm not speaking to them right now. The point is that I don't think it should be cut out. I believe it was put in there by God for a reason. I believe it is just as much valid today as the day it was written. We should desire earnestly to prophesy. The gifts are given by the choice of God and according to His will. You can see that in 1 Corinthians 12:11 & 28.

The gifts are activated by the faith of the believer. We activate the gifts by our faith. If they're not in operation, it is due to our faith. Now information may help our faith. If I have never been taught about the gifts, it's going to be difficult for me to walk in them. Miracles do happen. I never heard about speaking in tongues until I was seventeen years old and went to college. What I heard wasn't good at first. That is the truth. But, I'll say good things to you now and tell you great things about all the gifts. They are given to us for a reason. They are given to us to strengthen us. It is the devil that has tried to keep the church from using those gifts and walking in those gifts. I don't care if it comes through a child of God, it's still the devil that has originated those thoughts. Bless the person, but the doctrine is heresy. Any doctrine that comes against the clear Word of God cannot be from heaven. The Lord died to give these things to us. We don't want to give them up. We want to walk in them and desire them earnestly.

James 4:6 says, (you can read 7 & 8 also) But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." You know if you have heard me teach other times, the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 are the grace gifts or empowerments from the word charas which is the word "grace." They are charisma which is from the word grace. The way we receive those gifts is to humble ourselves before the Lord because He gives grace to the humble. If we will use what He has given us, He will be faithful to give us more. So we can have these gifts in operation. It says, "He gives according to His will." What we need to do is put ourselves in a position by humility that it's His will to give them. He always desires to give good gifts to His children.

2. The prophetic word brings testimony and confirmation from God to man. 1 Corinthians 14 says, (3) But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. (4) He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. (5) I wish you all spoke with tongues,(Now I'm not going into tongues tonight, but I think I will read that again&emdash;I wish you all spoke with tongues) but even more that you prophesied (Does that mean to do that, but forget the other? No. He said, "I want you all to speak in tongues and I want you to prophesy more so in the church. What does that mean we are supposed to be doing in our private life? Speaking in tongues like a house a fire, right? Speaking in tongues a lot. What you will find if you will speak in tongues a lot is you will have a word from time to time to bring to the church through prophecy or interpretation.); for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, (Okay this is what we find: prophecy and interpretation are equal to one another so when we have someone come up here and speak in tongues and they bring the interpretation, that is to our ears the same as prophecy because it is a word from the Lord that we can understand and judge and put into practice. It's a word from the Lord from God to man.) that the church may receive edification.

Those who truly understand spiritual authority seek the lowest place out of self-preservation if nothing else. Prophets may have to speak things which are not in the category of exhortation and comfort. The people will come back into the category of exhortation and comfort if they obey that word, but thank God we're not all prophets, okay? So if you come and bring a word to the church it's going to be edification, exhortation, and comfort. But, those that are walking in the five-fold office of a prophet many times need to bring a word that you don't want to have to bring. See my point? There's an authority that comes, to whom much is given, much is required. Many times when someone receives a word and they're seeing some problem, they aren't called to get up there like Elijah and call down fire. I've never seen one call down the fire, yet. They're called to pray. You're called to pray.

When a prophet receives a word like Jeremiah that comes in with reproof and correction, that's not necessarily edification, exhortation, or comfort. If they were to obey that, they would receive the edification and comfort of the Lord. But, you need to understand there is a difference. I want to make this point a few times tonight. There is a difference between the office of a prophet and those that prophecy. Sometimes we get in trouble because we cross the line and God didn't ask us to. Because you can prophesy, does not mean you have the burden or the mantle or the authority or the call to bring those kinds of words, especially in those kinds of places where you have no relationship, where you have not built the relationship. So you'll stay out of a lot of trouble if you'll understand intercession is where you need to be going. We're going to get into that in a little while, but intercession is your direction when you see those things, okay?

1 Corinthians 1 says, (4) I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, (5) that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, (6)

even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, (7)

so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. There are a number of interesting things in this section. The testimony of Christ, confirmation, also coming short in no gift. Prophecy will bring us the testimony of Christ. It will bring confirmation to us and it will help us that we come short in no gift. The reason we're not walking in all the gifts is because we have neglected prophecy. The reason we don't know the testimony of Jesus is because we have neglected prophecy. The reason we are in such need of confirmation in our lives is because we have neglected the prophetic word. The reason the 900 numbers are making so much money in our world today is because people want to hear a good word, even if it is a false good word. They want some confirmation in their life, even if it is that they are going in the wrong direction. It is because the church has neglected the gifts that God has given to us that the world is in the shape that it's in. They don't have an alternative. I'm not making excuses for it. It's always wrong to worship Baal. But, we carry much of that burden and much of the reproach is upon our shoulders because God left us here for a reason. When we

confess the Lord Jesus, He didn't take us to heaven for a reason. Because we are living stones left down here to reach the world. We have a commission that we need to perform.

The last part of Revelation 19:10 says, "...For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Don't you want to hear what the Lord is saying? What is His testimony in His church? What is He doing? What is the Spirit saying to the church today? How can we have Him as our Head if we won't listen to what He is saying? The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy. The testimony of Jesus confirms and enriches. Prophecy will bring us into grace and grace brings us our gifts.

1 Timothy 1:18 Paul talking to his spiritual son says, This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.... By those prophecies that were said over you Timothy, you are going to be able to fight spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:12 says, ...we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. We are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds with the weapons of our warfare (2 Cor. 10:4). Paul told Timothy it is by the prophecies that were said over him that he would be able to wage warfare. We as a church are inept in spiritual warfare. It is true. We are inept. We are not ignorant of satan's devices. Do you know why? Because we see them all over the place, even in the church. These things ought not to be so. The church ought to be a place that is today a spiritual Garden of Eden&mdash; a place where we can come for refuge , where the Lord can strengthen us, where we strengthen one another&mdash; where we discern the Lord's body, which is you, not a piece of bread. You are the bread it says in 1 Corinthians 10. You are the bread, the bread that we break and we take is in remembrance of Him, but we are now the body. Many are sick and weak amongst us because we have not discerned the Lord's Body. We are divided as a people because Jesus taught that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand and the devil listened to that prophetic word and he's been using it against us for two thousand years. But, Jesus taught it so we would learn and we would use it on our enemies to send confusion into the camp of the enemy. Correct? Amen.

When satan divides it is to destroy. When the Lord divides it is to multiply. We need to see the Lord come in and bring division, but only like a cell would divide&mdash;to multiply. But, what we have been seeing every step of the way predominately for two-thousand years is every time the Lord moved the devil split something in the body. But thank God we live in a time&mdash; for the first time in at least sixteen hundred years anyway&mdash; when the Spirit of God moves&mdash; the body is coming together. We are seeing again what it talks about in Ephesians where every joint supplies , where the two parts come together you have power , not just one section of the body moving, but two, three, four , coming together where you can move , where every joint supplies , the Body of Christ is getting ready to march. By the prophetic word we have the testimony of Jesus. We hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. We know what His will is for us to do. We are preparing for a time when we don't know exactly what's coming. Oh, we know about a harvest. Oh, we know about the latter rains, but just like Jesus said in the last days it will be like it was in the days of Noah. Now when you hear

that you think about the evil things that were going on in the days of Noah. But, there were some good things going on in the days of Noah. There was an ark being built. Noah was preparing that ark for something he didn't know what was coming. He knew something and he knew he had this plan. Through the prophetic word that the Lord had spoken to him, he had a plan and he built according to that plan for a hundred and twenty years. When he was finished there was an ark that was built. That ark is a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ and we are the Body of Christ and it's coming together and that ark will be finished before that latter rain begins to fall. We can't comprehend what's coming. We believe it because He has spoken it. But we can't comprehend it. But the prophetic word helps us to prepare according to the pieces of the puzzle that he gives us , according to the plans and purposes of God, we will, by faith be ready when the rain begins to come. By that faith many will be saved. In that day eight were saved. In this day, I don't know how many. But I know just like with Sampson there will be more that are saved in the last minutes before the Lord comes that have been saved since the day of Pentecost. Because I heard that through a prophetic word. He spoke it to me.

We can wage a good warfare. We cannot wage a good warfare without the prophetic word. I have talked to people in the past who have said, "Well, can't we do it without that?" I don't know if you can. Why would you want to? I mean you could probably plan baseball with one arm, but why would you want to? We need the word of the Lord to wage the warfare that we are waging. I don't know about you, but I'm tired of the devil getting any licks in. I don't think he should get any. We have what is called a shield of faith and it says that we can with that shield of faith quench every fiery dart , not just most , I know a few of them have gotten in on me so I still have some growing to do. I want every fiery dark quenched and I want them quenched around all of us. Every single one. We wrestle not against flesh and blood. I don't want to stand back. I want to get in and wrestle , that means a close up-front fight with the devil. He will always lose. But, we need to get up and go and we will wage good warfare and we will win because the Lord has given us the victory.

Prophecy will often confirm. It's part of a team sent to equip the saints. They are part of the process of winning cities for Christ. Now I've heard people say that if it is a prophetic word and it doesn't confirm, it's not true. That's incorrect. Because many times the word will come to you through a prophetic word and it will be the first time you heard it, but it will be confirmed at some point, but don't think that every word has to be confirmation, but every word will be confirmed if you are faithful. Part of what it does is confirm. Let's not try to put God in a box. I've heard too many of these cliches that hem God in. The prophetic word is not always confirmation, but God will always confirm His word. So let's keep that in balance, okay? Always first things will come through the prophetic , if not through prophets they will come through the prophetic. Many times through apostles, but always through the prophetic. First, apostles, secondary prophets, but it will be confirmed by the Lord if we will stay faithful.

You can see that in Acts 11 started with verse (27) And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also

happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. (29) Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. (30) This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

I want to look at some of the places where it shows in the Word of God that the prophetic word is bringing confirmation. Genesis 41:32 is the first place where we see the principle that the word spoken twice is confirmation. This is Joseph talking to Pharaoh. (32) "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established (confirmed) by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass. By the Law of First Mention we know this is set throughout the Word of God. It is given once and if it is confirmed, it is going to happen by faith, but it will happen.

You can see it in Acts 15:32. Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened (this is the word *episterizo* which is the word "confirmed." In the King James it says, "They confirmed...") the brethren with many words. What kind of words? They were prophets. They were speaking prophetic words and what was it doing but confirming the saints. I asked the Lord one time, "What is it that they did in the Early Church." I mean, Paul, he blows into town and gets a vision, the man in the vision says, "Come over to Macedonia." So Paul goes over to Macedonia, they blow into town and they are there for three Sabbath days. They haven't gotten any men saved -- finally they got this jailer saved, but he leaves the next day. Then he goes to Thessalonica and starts on another church. But, he writes back to Philippi, we have the book of Philippians and it says in Philippians 4:16, Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent aid once again for my necessities. Now we have Christians that have been forty years Christians and don't tithe. These guys were Christians overnight and they're sending to build a church in Thessalonica. What is it that they had that we don't have? One of the things they had was confirmation. One of the things they had was they commended the people to the Lord. You see that in Paul's verse where he wrote to Timothy. He said, "I am commending this to you." They commended the saints to the Lord and they confirmed them to the Lord Jesus. The Lord ran the church then. He wants to regain His Church now. He is the Head and He has every right to run the church. We need to get our hands off it and let Him be the Head and we be the servants. We be the members and let Him be the Head. Amen? Amen. I think He knows how to do it. I think He's been patient long enough waiting for His own prayers that He prayed in John 17 to come to pass. He's already given us the glory. It's time for His prayers that He prayed that we be one, that we reach the world, come to pass. He said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to Myself." Well, who is supposed to be lifting Him up? The Body, because He's the Head. If we'll stand up on our feet, He will be lifted up because He's the Head. If we'll stop walking on Him, and start lifting Him up, He will do the work of drawing all men to Himself. Praise the Lord. Do I hear an amen? Amen.

Back to Acts 15, (40) ...Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. (41) And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening (or confirming) the churches. First they started by confirming the individuals in the churches, now they are confirming entire churches. They started out by winning individuals. It says, daily many were saved. Then it came to the point where daily entire churches were

coming in to the Body of Christ. We will see that again. We will see individuals pouring in and then we will see entire congregations or assemblies coming in to the Body of Christ at once. How will we be prepared? We won't be without the prophetic word because we have to have information from someone that has seen the end before the beginning. I haven't see it. Have you? Did you call the end before the beginning? I think God had a talk with Job about just that subject. Did you advise me Job on how to do this? No you didn't. So why don't you pray for your friends. Well, I think the same advice might fit us, wouldn't it? Maybe we should pray for what's going on here and believe God and let Him run things. We should lift Him up. That's our job and He'll do the drawing. Amen? Amen.

3. It causes people to prosper. The people of God will prosper. Ezra 6:14 So the elders of the Jews built, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. And they built and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the command of Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia. They prospered because of the prophesying. It wasn't just prophesied words that caused them to profit. It was prophesied words that were acted upon. They believed those words and they acted on them. Faith without works is dead. If we hear a word , we have faith in the word -- what will we do? Act. Agabus in the book of Acts shows up in Antioch and says, "Hey, there's going to be a famine." What happens? They say, "Oh, we'd better take up a collection to help out there in Judah because they're going to have a famine. Let me tell you something. Famines don't happen over night. Even if it started the next day, it wasn't a famine yet. It becomes a famine when nothing grows and food runs out. Yet, he prophesied it and what did they immediately do? They took up a collection , every man gave as they could , and then it says, "No man suffered need."

We live in a time when there are all kinds of words around and all kinds of fear around , "what's coming down?" If we have a sure word of prophesy that tells us what to do, we can take action and God will again make sure there's no one that suffers need in the church. Amen. That's what the prophetic word will do for us. It will prepare us for things that we know not. Where is fear coming from in the church? From the unknown, generally. What we need to know, God will give us. We will prosper through the prophetic word and obedience to it.

4. It helps us to discern between good and evil. Malachi 3 (14) You have said, "It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the LORD of hosts? (15) So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free." This is the mind of many Christians today. They see people prospering that are evil. They see those that curse God , they see ministers of God that abuse the people and abuse the finances and yet appear to go unpunished. Those that do wickedness are raised up and even tempt God and go free. (16) Then those that fear the Lord spoke to one another and the Lord listened and heard them. So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name. Listen to this people , even when it appears that those who do evil are prospering, God is listening to you. Are you still going to proclaim what His word says? Are you still going to pray for healing on the

land before He pours out His judgment and try to withhold that judgment if we can and bring the blessings and healing before it becomes a famine. If you will speak those things He will write it in a book of remembrance because He's listening to you.

(17) "They shall be Mine," says the Lord of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him." I'm going to tell you something. There were some terrible times coming down in Israel and in Judah during the times of Ahab and Jezebel. Most of Israel was out there worshiping false gods, but Elijah didn't go hungry. Isn't that interesting? There weren't many people near Elijah, but the people that were near him didn't go hungry. "I will spare them as a man spares his own son..." What's the requirement? Who serves Him. Who did Jesus take to the wedding in Cana? It says He took His disciples. Right? Who do you think is going to be at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb? His disciples. He is sifting even His own people. Those that will speak His word are the ones that will receive His word. If He gives it to us, but we won't speak it, then He will cease to give it to us. He will give it where it will be appreciated. He will give to whom will believe it and speak it forth, or maybe the other way around because many times we speak it even when we don't believe it, but we come around and our faith comes around because of the power of the spoken word. Praise God.

(18) Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. As we continue to speak the words, we will be able to see what's right and what's wrong. The prophetic word will help us discern, help us divide between truth and error.

I just thought of a time not that long ago when I was at the end of a weekend of meetings and people were coming up for prophecy and prayer, a lot of deliverance in many, many ways. But, this one individual came up. It was the first time he had come to this church, later I checked and nobody knew who he was, and he came up and asked specifically for something, a specific anointing that I had talked about earlier that night, and he wanted that specifically. When I laid hands on him the first thing I saw was a coyote. Now this was on the east coast and they have coyotes there. Out here it is kind of a curse to call somebody a coyote, you varment, you dirty varment you, you lowdown coyote. I saw this coyote and he was running along and he was sticking his nose in all kinds of places where he shouldn't have been sticking it. Now what are you going to do to the poor guy? I discerned his heart right there and I told him what I saw and I was nice. I did it in a discreet manner with the love of God and I prayed for him what he asked and that it would only work through the obedience of God because I discerned from that vision that what he wanted was just like Simeon the Sorcerer who came and offered Peter money because he saw the power and ministry of God, but he wanted it for his own purposes. I believe that's what the Lord was showing me so through the spirit of prophecy the Lord showed me. There was no giving away of any of God's jewels to a place where it would be throwing pearls before swine in a sense. But rather the good was given but he had to come to the Lord to receive it because with the prophetic word comes the ability to discern truth from error, to see men's hearts where we cannot see with our own eyes.

Ask Samuel. Every time they brought a son of Jesse he said, "Sure this is the one." God said to him, "No way, Bub. You don't see things the way I see. I look on the heart." Unless God shows us, we can't know the hearts of men, but through the testimony of Jesus in the spirit of prophecy we will know and we will not be taken in. Amen. Prophecy is not criticism. It's not accusation. We don't need prophesy to see evil with our eyes. Just read the paper. You don't even have to do that.

A couple weeks ago Frances Frangipane was here in Montana and I wrote down a great statement that he made. It says, "All you need to see what's wrong with a person is one good eye and a carnal mind." I love it. You don't need the spirit of prophecy to find out what's wrong with people, do you?

I was having lunch with a man one day and I specifically asked him to have lunch with me because I really discerned he had a real prophetic call on his life and yet he had such an accusatives spirit especially towards leadership, but nevertheless towards a lot of things. I asked him to come to lunch because I wanted to talk to him about his call that I felt he had on his life. I felt he had a real strong call, still do believe it, on his life in the prophetic. But we sat down and we had barely begun speaking and he said, "Well, I was up at such and such a place and they were given prophetic words and this woman prophesied over me that I had a critical spirit." I was thinking, "No kidding." He goes, "Well, go ahead and cast it out then." I said, "Well, Lord what am I going to do with that? It's not something I can cast out. What is this anyway?" What the Lord spoke to me was, "The spirit of criticism was an unmentored prophetic call."

Unfortunately, unless we will allow ourselves to come under submission and to have some coaching, many times when the Lord shows us something or brings it to us, we become critical rather than lifted up to the Lord in intercession and take it to the Lord to find out what can be done about it. We become critical and we cut off ourselves from walking any further or any deeper into that calling. Many times then that person with that call, they know they have a call, they know they have a gift, and then they become more bitter because they are rejected and they are rejected because they are critical. Who wants to hear a critical spirit come and prophesy? I want to hear the testimony of Jesus, don't you? So we need to understand prophesy is not criticism. It is not accusation. It should be used in such a way to cast down the accuser of the brethren. True prophecy will always cut the devil off at the knees, not bring him in and give him a place to preach, right? Amen.

5. The prophetic word is the voice of God on the earth and it will bring us His counsel. Isaiah 29:10, For the Lord has poured out on you The spirit of deep sleep, And has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers. If we don't allow the prophetic, we are in darkness. In the days of Eli it says "the lamp of God had gone out." We need the seers. We need the prophetic word so that the eyes of the church are opened.

Paul said, "Well, can the ear say to the eye I have no need of you?" "Can the hands say to the other parts of the body...?" No. So when we say we don't need the eyes of the body of

Christ, what are we doing? We're going against the Word of God, aren't we? And here in Isaiah the Lord took out their eyes. That's what they did to Sampson. It's not a pretty sight to have a blind body, sort of helpless and yet without the prophetic word that is a picture of the body of Christ. These things ought not to be, and they aren't because those who ask are given. Amen? Praise God. He has given us light. He has given us the Word. He has given us input and understanding and to those who ask, He will give hearing ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. Let him who has ears to hear, hear.

That reminds me of back when I went off to college and I remember, I had been a Christian all my life, but really when I went off to college, lots of people go off to college and they really get into partying and all kinds of stuff like that. I got into that in highschool, really briefly when you consider a life, but anyway I still tried some of those things. When I went off to college I began immediately to tear those things down in my life, to go back to the Word of God and really dig into the Word of God and really read the Word for the first time in my life. I mean I had "read" the Bible and I had "learned" the Bible in church and Sunday school, but to really on my own, okay this is my life now and I can do whatever I want, I had a new anointing you might say to just dig in and get to know the Scriptures. Boy, I was just amazed how many times in the gospels it says, "He who has ears to hear let him hear." Actually seven times. Then in the book of Revelation it is eight times. But seven times to the church. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Jesus, if you believe it or not, is the only person in the Bible that says that statement. That right there is a testimony of Jesus. He's the only one who gets to say that in the whole New Testament. He who has ears to hear.... Well, I remember praying one day after I was reading some of those parables and reading again where Jesus said that. I remember looking out of my dorm window, out over the soccer field, I remember praying, "I'd like to be one of those that can hear." Years later the Lord brought that back to me and I can say that He answered that prayer. I can also say I think if we will all pray that we will all begin to hear. He will speak to us. I came out of a background where I didn't know what a prophet was. I thought there were twelve apostles and then Paul took the place of Judas. That's way off from the Bible and I'd never heard of speaking in tongues. I didn't realize anybody could prophesy that wasn't like Elijah. I'd never heard what a word of knowledge was. Word of wisdom? Spirits? Come on, maybe in India. But, I prayed that prayer it is amazing what God did that I didn't have a clue what was even out there. But if we'll ask He'll give. The prophetic word is the voice of God.

Prophecy will plant the supernatural. It germinates. It activates and it releases His power. It is the declaration and the release of the seed of God's Word and His will. In 1 Kings you see it with Elijah many times, the word of the Lord came to Elijah and he said, "Pray that it won't rain." and he went and he said to King Ahab, "It's not going to rain at my word." Now let me ask you a question: Could Elijah just go out there the day before and say, "I'm not going to let it rain?" No. It had to be the word of the Lord, not the word of the Elijah, right? But when that word came to him it had to be spoken in order to come to pass. God gives authority to those who will speak prophetically. More authority when we will speak His word.

Amos 3:7, Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret (His plans) to His servants the prophets. God does nothing. Why? Isn't God sovereign? Sure He is. Can't He do whatever He wants? Yes. And so He has decided to do nothing without sharing His secrets and His plans to His servants who will be prophetic. Who will speak it forth. Maybe in secret places. Maybe from the house tops. We'll need to learn when, won't we? Because there are different times for each. There are times when Jesus said to His disciples, "The things I'm whispering in your ear you proclaim them from the housetops." There are other times when He says, "You don't tell a soul." You need to know when. Because if He gives you a secret and it's not time for you to reveal it and you go blab it, that's the last secret He's going to tell you, right? You have to remember He's your Father, but He's also a mighty good general. He wants to win. He'll give you tests just to see what you're going to do with His Word. Are you going to believe it? Or are you going to keep it to yourself?

You know the story how three different people came up to me , individually , three different visions , one was a dream , all apparently totally different and yet all three had the same interpretation that I came from a city where everybody was going to be saved. That was a shock. I mean it was a shock to get all three of those. It was a shock to get three different interpretations from three different people that had not heard anybody else, but I had a choice then, didn't I? To come home and to say it or not to say it. It was not easy at first to say, "Everyone is going to be saved here in Missoula, Montana." But, I'm saying it right now and it's easy to say. You know what? If I lift up the Lord, He'll draw all men to Himself. It's not my job to make it come to pass. I didn't prophesy it, they did. I'm proclaiming it because that was a secret. I didn't know it. I mean certainly I was praying for tens of thousands , we've been praying that, but He spoke through the prophetic word , I received it saying, "My town can be like Nineveh and everyone can repent." I know in Missoula the dogs will because the people take them everywhere. So that's like Nineveh. But now I have a choice, don't I with the prophetic word , am I going to keep it or am I going to proclaim it? I'm going to proclaim it and some people think I'm nuts. I don't really care. Because if it's the Word and if I have the release to proclaim it, I'm going to proclaim it. Right? And He will make good His word. Will it be in my lifetime? I think so, but I don't know. The point is it will come to pass if we will proclaim it. That was a secret that was given through the word of prophecy that was not to be kept secret any longer. It would have been disobedience to keep it secret.

There have been things the Lord has given me and I've said, "Man this is a jewel. Why did you give it to me? Why not give it to somebody that could get it out to many more people?" He has told me on a number of occasions, "I have given it to them and they will not speak it." Why? Too much reproach maybe. Maybe they don't believe it. I can't tell you why, but I do know this: If it comes, it's a jewel. I'm going to proclaim it. Amen. I'm glad you guys are too. Praise the Lord. Well, He doesn't do anything without sharing His secrets.

Deuteronomy 29:29, The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Hey, it was a secret, but then He gave it. Who does it belong to now? Us.

Now how do we receive anything from God? Any of the promises of God , how do we receive them? Faith. Through obedience and faith is how we receive anything from God. This promise is ours by the prophetic word we received it and by the Word of the Lord we will see it come to pass because it will direct our way and direct our path. Praise God? Amen. The secret things belonged to the Lord our God but those things that are revealed belong to us. Amen.

I've heard Rick Joyner make this statement a number of times in various ways, but I want to quote it to you as best I can get it. "The true essence of prophetic ministry is to be so close to the Lord that He does not want to do anything without sharing it with you." Quite a goal. That's what the Lord wants, though. That's why He has us a joint-heirs with Him. That's why He has us a fellow-laborers , co-workers with God , co-workers with Christ. Why? He wants us to learn to be friends with Him. Correct? This is His desire. He doesn't want robots. He can have robots if He wants robots. He does not want robots. Robots would have given Him a lot less trouble. But they also give a lot less love. We as we turn to Him and give to Him and really the only things we have to give are obedience and love. When we give those things to Him we become friends, right? Amen.

More than anything else, the essence of prophetic ministry is to be a special friend and a confidant of the Lord, therefore friendship and intimacy with Him must always be our primary and our ultimate goal. First Jesus called His disciples it says in Mark 3 that they might be with Him first and foremost we were called that we might be with Him. Keep that in mind. He called you as a child, not as a servant. Now we learn through our servanthood, but we were called to be sons. As sons grow up they become friends as they mature. Amen.

Jeremiah 23:22, But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings. He's talking about the prophets. If those prophets had stood in His council and spoken His word , it takes both standing and speaking. We have to go to Him , we have to receive it and then we have to speak it.

Just as I gave you the example of men that the Lord has told me that He has given them His council, but they have refused to speak it or refused to walk in it because of the fear of man. We need both , we need to stand in His counsel number one , if we will stand in His counsel, He will give us His Word. And it will turn the people from their evil way. Amen.

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing will be impossible." Now the literal of that verse says, "For with God no word spoken by Him is without power." We are the voice of God on this earth. When we speak prophetically it is the Word of God and it has power. When Elijah received the word by standing in the presence of God and the Lord said, "Go out and you pray and I'll make it stop raining for three years." He went out and he spoke it and it came to pass. His words had power because God backed him up because Elijah had come and stood in His counsel. No word that proceeds out , that's the Word of God , goes out in vain , goes out without power.

1 Kings 17:1, And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." What an arrogant guy. Did it come to pass? Yes. God must have liked him. It was by his word. Even if he did have some machine to turn off the rain, do you think he could go out there and turn off the dew? But by his word... Before the God whom I stand, I'm not sure how many times it says that, how many times Elijah said that. He said, "The God before whom I stand..." Guess what happened? He raised up another prophet named Elisha. What do you think he said to the king? "The God before whom I stand." What do you think he learned? He learned to stand in the presence of God and receive the counsel of the Lord and then he spoke the word of God and his word was law in the heavens. When he spoke it the angels went out to do his word because he stood in the counsel of God. Don't get arrogant and think just because you said it, God has to bring it to pass. When you stand in His counsel He'll do it because you're a co-worker, you're a friend.

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Jeremiah 1:12 Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word." The Lord said to Jeremiah, "What do you see?" Jeremiah told him what he saw. He said, "Yep, that's right and I'm going to bring it to pass. I will perform My Word."

6. Prophecy is the expression of the heart and mind of God in a supernatural way or means. This past Spring here at the Montana Shepherd's Conference one of the speakers was Terry Vergel from England. I wrote this quote down: "If we are truly prophetic we are willing to live in the limitations of tent dwellings while we are looking for the city whose maker is God." It says that Abraham was a prophet. It says that he was a friend of God. How many things do you think Abraham prophesied? I'll make it easy. None. There's not a single prophesy that Abraham, the first prophet listed in the Bible, ever prophesied. But what did he do? He was a friend of God. He stood in the counsel of the Lord and he interceded. He prayed. He searched for a city whose maker was God and he's in Hebrews 11 and it says he never has received that yet. Yet he was faithful and he is listed as a man of great faith. As a matter of fact all of us are called descendants or sons of Abraham because he believed. If we are a believer we are a descendant of Abraham in the Spirit and yet what happened?, he never received it but because of the prophetic word he was able to stay faithful even though he'd never seen it with his eyes. Are we willing? We want the power that Elijah had to speak and to call down fire on the prophets of Baal. We want to have the power that Elisha had that he could call down the fire on the king's army as they came. But do we want to go live off in the wilderness and get fed by ravens? Do we want to wander around in the desert in tents? Are we willing to pay the price if that's what God asks? We ought to be because there should be nothing more important to you than standing in the counsel of the Lord. When we become a people that are willing to stand in His presence those things of the world will grow dim anyway. We

will seek first the Kingdom of God and these things will be added unto us. What we need will come when we need it. We won't need to be burdened down with anything else. I think it would be kind of cool to be fed by ravens, but like I've said in the past, I'd rather get fed by elk.

Romans 4:17, (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations" , it's talking about Abraham) in the presence of Him whom he believed; God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did... God calls those things that aren't as though they are. Those that stand in His counsel have that ability to stand in front of people, if need be, and say, "This will come to pass" when it doesn't look like it's going to come to pass , to stand in the face of the king's guard and say, "By this time tomorrow there's going to be so much food in town it's going to be sold at a discount market and you're going to see it, but you won't taste any of it." If you stand in the presence of God you can speak those things that be not as though they are , then God can act and bring those things to pass.

1 Corinthians 1:28, ...and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are... God is going to bring a rock that's going to crush to powder everything that ever stands against Him. He's going to bring that rock of offense , Jesus Christ , we heard, I think it was last week, through the prophetic word , the Lord said, "I am going to send a spirit of offense on the body of Christ." I had to take that back to the Scriptures and I spoke it. I still had to go back , I found a couple of different verses where it talks about that , that spirit of offense is the Spirit of Christ when He sends it. Sometimes it is He that offends us because He offends our carnal nature and He is beginning to rise up in His own church and He's tired of the flesh that dwells in His body. He died to make us holy and He wants us to be in His presence and there can no flesh dwell. So He is the One that offends.

I can't remember who it was , I think it was Rick Joyner , that told us some prophecy , I think it was he that prophesied it , "My people think I'm a lot nicer than I am." I love it! Well, anyway. He's going to bring enough to nothing to the things that are. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt. See if you have your investing in the places that are going to be then you will be the rich, won't you? Because He's going to be to not the things that everyone is trusting in. When they say, "Peace, peace" that's the time to watch out, isn't it? That's what the Word of God says.

7. Prophecy and intercession are twins. Genesis 20:7 (Once again the Law of First Mention , the first time you find something in the Bible it is interesting to look at it because if it sets a pattern there, that pattern will hold true throughout the whole Word of God.) "Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet (This is God talking to Abimelech about Abraham. Abraham is a prophet and he will pray for you. This just happens to be the first verse in the Bible that has the word "prophet" and it also happens to be the first verse in the Bible that has the word "pray." So this tells us something that hold true throughout the Scriptures that they are twins and they will overlap and you will see non-prophets that go into prophecy through prophetic prayer throughout the Word and you will see prophets who are great intercessors because of the spirit of prophecy

will lead them into intercession and if there was a prophet he could get someone to intercede, if he could find someone, for he is a prophet and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

Jeremiah 27:18, "But if they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts,..." Sometimes we have that spirit of criticism that tries to imitate or come in and masquerade as a spirit of prophecy. But I say if you have true prophecy in you, take that word back to the Lord and intercession and that's what the Lord says. If you're a prophet then bring it up to Him in intercession and do something about it when no one else will know about it. Because if your true strength comes from your relationship with the Lord, you're not so concerned about what others think, are you? Amen. They are twins.

8. Requirements for prophesy. These are the requirements in order to prophesy and also to receive prophecy. It is very simple. Who can prophesy? 1 Corinthians 14:31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. So If you're saved and you have the Spirit of God, you can prophesy. I was going to say, "And if you can talk, but I know there are some exceptions where there is prophecy that comes that doesn't even come through words." So I won't even say that. Generally if you can talk , but if we have the Spirit of God, we all can prophesy, Paul said.

Matthew 10:41, Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward,... But it says to receive the rewards of prophesy, you must receive a prophet in the name of a prophet. We have been living through the restoration of the prophet ministry. People have wanted to receive words from the Lord and wanted to receive prophecy , many people have. That's good. But really in order to receive the rewards, you have to receive the prophet in the name of the prophet. It holds true for all the ministries. But the church has been taught to have a non-biblical standard for judging the apostolic and the prophetic that they don't have for the other ministries. We'll not move into prophetic maturity if we're not willing to allow prophetic immaturity. In the Old Testament days they made allowances for the sons of the prophets to grow , something the church in our day has been unwilling to do. Prophecy cannot be judged until it is given. We in the church today in many, many instances we want to judge the prophecy, but we don't want to allow it to be spoken. We do not receive the rewards of a prophet because we will not receive the prophet. We want the rewards but we don't want to take the risks. I'm going to tell you something. When you stand up before a group of people, no matter who they are, even if they're friends, and you begin to bring a word from the Lord that's a prophetic word, you may not know what the Spirit's going to say. You're taking a risk. I don't know anyone who wants to get up there and speak something foolish. I don't know anybody that wants to get up there and speak something that they know not. I don't like to speak things that I know not. Sometimes, I should say many times in my life , I have , by the spirit of prophecy prophesied things that contradict my own doctrine. What about that? Do you know what I've had to do? Go back to the Scriptures. You know what I've found? In every case so far I've found out my doctrine

was wrong. I can't judge it before I give it. But can we allow the sons to grow? We need to or we'll never have the rewards of the prophet.

1 Corinthians 14:29, Let two or three prophets speak and then let the others judge. Tell you something else , let them speak, okay? That's enough for now on that one. The church in our day wants the blessing of the prophet without receiving the prophet as a prophet. We can't judge the prophesy until it is given.

Now as I end here, I just want to exhort you , don't deceive yourselves into thinking that because you're being taught these things that you are automatically doing these things. You must hear and obey. To hear only prepares us only for judgment.

James 1, (23) Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror (24) and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.(25) But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does. So for you all I exhort you as we learn and as we press in here to the prophetic and the Lord teaches us not only to learn it , and not to just put it into your head , not just to be hearers, but doers of the word because these things are given to us to live, not just to know. We are to be living stones not dead rocks sitting on the side of the road. The Lord said if we won't rise up then He'll make the rocks come up and praise Him. But, I say we should be the rocks that praise Him. We should be the ones that proclaim His Word. We should be the ones that speak His Word into this realm in which we live. We should be those that will bridge the gap between the natural and the supernatural and bring the Word from the Lord that is the power that we need in the church that will bring us that rain which will revive the church which will allow us to stand in the presence of God as a people and see His will come to pass in this day and at this time. Praise God! How about we give the Lord a hand. Amen.