

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE PART V



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

Welcome to this interesting edition! This is a very basic introduction to thoughts and verses about Prophecy in the Bible and also as a gift of the Holy Spirit

The first and usual meaning of the noun prophecy is: a prediction of what will happen in the future.
The verb to prophesy is the act of giving a prophecy.

A BRIEF COMMENT ABOUT PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE

The subject and usefulness of true prophecy is clear throughout the Old and New Testaments. Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit as Paul clearly says in 1 Corinthians 12: 10

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Prophecy was used throughout the Old Testament. We have as far as I can see 16 full books there of both 'minor' and 'major' prophets. This does not include all other notable prophets, 'schools of prophets' and false prophets. These

books stretch from the prophet Isaiah to the end of the OT in Malachi.

Prophecy was a greatly used gift of God working in the spirit of His chosen children. There were even schools of prophets, where men followed a certain elder like prophet, for example Elijah or Elisha or others and presumably learned from them how to give a true prophecy. (There must have been rules!)

In fact, prophets were often paid by kings and others of wealth to prophesy blessing into their lives! Equally they were used or paid to speak curses into the lives of enemies! This we can see in

the amazing story of Balaam who was 'hired' by a heathen king to speak curses against Israel. You will find the somewhat amusing story here in Numbers chapters 22 to 24!

Possibly there were many corrupt people who got hired to 'prophesy' and who didn't know the Lord at all and prophesied falsely to their kings! A classic example of this is Jeremiah's showdown with the false prophet Hananiah before the King Zedekiah in Jeremiah chapter 28! Please do read that, it is a fantastic lesson and message! 'This town is only big enough for one Prophet!' **

The proof of prophecy was

Click on the
image to see
The amazing
fulfilment of
Prophecy!



that it had its fulfilment later in time, whether that was very soon or far into the distant future. The Bible is full of prophecies, but remember someone had to deliver the prophecies.

In first Samuel chapter 10, you will find a whole list of signs that Samuel told the king-to-be Saul that would happen to him that selfsame day! I believe there were five in all. Now that is amazing. Imagine if someone came to you and told you exactly five things that would happen to you today. How did he get that knowledge? Obviously true prophecies are a gift from God.

Today we accept the prophecies we read in the Bible as being true, even though we are not always 100% sure exactly what they mean or when they will happen! But we accept this, because so many of the we do know did happen and we have seen their fulfilment in History, the arrival of Jesus Christ, The rise and fall of empires, and signs of the End time to name a few!

MY OWN EXPERIENCE USING THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

I feel prophecy is an underused gift of the Holy Spirit. This may be because some believers are leery of hearing them or using them for God's glory, or are just confused as to how to prophesy.

The gift of prophecy is a gift that has to be 'exercised'



or developed we would say today. The root of exercising



prophecy is to get quiet with God and I have included a beautiful Bible study in full called Hearing from God at the end of this edition. To prophesy (verb) we must first of all hear it or at least the very beginning line(s) of it from the Lord. We should not expect to hear from God the whole prophecy from God in full before we write it down. Prophecy comes like all conversation, and that is sentence upon sentence!

I was blessed a lot in my life to learn or develop this gift of prophecy and I used it frequently in the Spirit. God had given me that gift and I met other pastors or co-workers who taught me how to develop it. At that time I was in full time service on a mission field, and over about twenty years the Lord gave me a lot of prophecies and some life changing messages for a few of my close friends, co-workers and sponsors of our missions. I sent these prophecies to them when I received them, some of them told them exactly what they should be doing, or what God was wishing to do with them!

He told them in some cases exactly where they should be geographically, what

they should be doing in their ministry or their lives, and the amazing thing is that sometimes these prophecies arrived to them at the exact time when they were praying about such things. Since I did not know often what their plans were, it was all the more exceptional to see God's Message to them fit exactly with their own desperation in prayer!

Some people wrote me back and said: 'how did you know anything about that?' I have to give God all the glory as I didn't, but what I did do was have the faith to send them the prophecy 'by faith' as a message from God and not from me! Praise the Lord.

RECOGNISING A TRUE PROPHECY

Using the same criteria of speaking a prophecy and you just speak out what God is giving you, it is then recorded on paper or by an audio/video device, we can also, when we read someone else's prophecy, recognise in our spirit, whether this is a true message. In fact The New testament tells us in 1 Corinthians 14 that it is good for two or three people to 'judge' or discern whether the prophecy is true.

To give an example of this I am including now a prophecy that has been sent around the internet to a few people. Since the person who passed it on to me is a reliable source of Godly information, I therefore, after reading this prophecy myself, feel that this is a true prophecy and that I am in fact reading a message from Jesus Christ that is telling me a part of His counsel for the days now and

just in front of me. I encourage you to read this prophecy with an open mind, and see if it sits right with your spirit. Of course you may not have had practice on reading such things, or this may be unusual for you, so anyway, give it a try and pray first before you read this next section. God bless you.

I HEARD THE LORD SAY
'DO NOT BE AFRAID OF
THE SIMPLIFYING FOR I
AM MAKING ROOM FOR
INCREASE' by Lana Vawser

Recently, I heard the Lord say, 'Do not be afraid of the simplifying for I am making room for increase.'

'As I leaned in and listened to the Lord I heard, 'My people do not be afraid of the shaking. For I am bringing you My people into a place of greater focus. I am bringing you into a place of refined focus upon Me.

'For I am shaking all that can be shaken in this hour, and that which is not for this season and also things that were not built upon Me, will not remain. I am bringing forth a shaking now that is clearing out that which cannot be carried into the new season.

'As I am shaking and clearing, I am bringing forth an upgrade. I am bringing you, My people — in the pressing and in the pressure on every side — into a place of deeper dependence upon Me, and I am bringing you into a greater realm of hearing, receiving and seeing My divine wisdom. I say unto you, that you cannot move forward in this season without hearing

and receiving My wisdom. The need to hear and receive My wisdom in the days in which you are living is incredibly important. For there is much turbulence in the spirit right now and you must not rely on what you have known, how you have moved with Me in the previous seasons or even how you think things will turn out or should look. You **MUST** call out to Me for My wisdom and be prepared to obey and move no matter what My wisdom looks like to you or those around you.

'For I have new strategies that I am calling you to move in, in this hour. These strategies — My divine wisdom — will feel foreign to many of you, as it is taking you in pathways that you have not walked in before. But I say unto you, as you obey where I am leading, as you implement and build **UPON and FROM** My wisdom, you shall see great increase in your midst. **You shall see My presence and My glory open up the realm of fruitfulness, life and increase that is found in Me.** For it will be very clear in this season who is building upon My wisdom and who chooses to remain in what they have known, in a greater way than you have seen before.

'**For the shaking is increasing and the urgency to walk in and know My wisdom is increasing.** For I am not a God who withholds My wisdom, I am the One who is wisdom itself, and I will not turn away a hungry heart. This is the hour that you must crave and call out for My wisdom. And as you come to Me with a humble and teachable heart, oh how I will answer you and lead you into My ways and the

understanding of My ways on an unprecedented scale.

'For I say unto you, that in the shaking and in the pressure, there is a continual revealing of the heart. **I am refining hearts at deep, deep levels to bring you deeper into the place of union and oneness with Me.** For in Me, there is oneness. You have been grafted into Me and in Me, you live and move and have your being. But there are many who are not walking in sensitivity and oneness with My heartbeat, and their pace is not matching the pace of My heart. For this is not a time to be found running at your own pace.



This is the time to be found nestled into My heart, knowing Me and the rhythm of My heart and following in the pace of My heartbeat.

'There are many of you who are in the birthing canal. You are in the space where I am upgrading the operating system of building in your midst. **I am shifting structures. I am changing strategies.** I am bringing you into a greater understanding of the intricate instructions of what I am building in and through you in this hour, and how you are to make room for the move of My Spirit. **But you must**

continue to move in obedience to Me and lay down your own agendas.



For many will look and call you foolish for your radically abandoned trust and deep dives of faith that I am calling you to. But as you follow where I lead, oh the increase and the fruitfulness that you shall see. Oh the habitation of My Glory that shall be in your midst.

'Do not allow the landscape of the last season to contain you. Do not allow the landscape dreams of how you wish and long for things to be to chain you. I am calling you deeper, My people, into the depths of trust: letting go of the reins and allowing Me to shift and move and build things as I desire, remembering that I AM THE BUILDER. Continue to lay down the landscape dreams of how you wish and long for things to be, and watch how I shall far exceed that which you could ever dream. For in the changing of the landscape, alignments are and must shift. There is an even greater exposing of alignments that I am bringing forth right now, and I say unto you do NOT allow your heart to keep you in alignments that I am moving you on from. **Do not allow your heart to be entangled when a season has ended. For I am moving you**

from old season alignments into new season alignments, where you will see My glory and My favour upon these alignments in ways that you have never seen before.

'Be open to unexpected alignments. Be open to unexpected ways that I will move, and be open to unexpected strategies. Be not quick to judge things as 'not of Me' because they are not fitting into your expectations. I am calling you, My people, deeper into a place of living with open hands. Do not be afraid of that which I am simplifying. Do not be afraid of pruning in areas that I am pruning, and be not afraid of the doors I close or the NO I give. For I am building and shaping things and making room for a mighty move of My Spirit that YOU CANNOT YET SEE. I am going to move suddenly and swiftly in some areas and you will see that simplicity and simplifying is actually the birthing ground for expansion and increase.

'Come deeper in trust, My people, listen to My wisdom and My intricate instructions. For this moment is crucial for that which I am birthing and for My Glory to come.' (End of this prophecy)

Several people have judged or discerned this prophecy to be a true one. As I read it and re read it, I find this sits with my spirit, tells me a great variety of important information and teaches me to prepare for the future, and to be ready and how to be ready for what God is going to do shortly.

This summarises also my own feelings and what I have

been going through spiritually recently. I resonate with the message of moving, changing and not limiting God and becoming prepared for Him now and going forward.

God bless you dear friends. I pray this simple message of the basics of prophecy and prophesying will be a blessing. And here is the beautiful Bible study on hearing from God, mentioned earlier! Until next week, God willing. Jerry for the WCF TEAM

GETTING ALONE WITH GOD

Definition: Getting alone with God refers to times of private prayer and communion with the Jesus.

1. The secret of prayer is secret prayer.

* **Isaiah 26:20** [Secret prayer protects God's people from His judgments on the wicked.] Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

* **Matthew 6:6** But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

2. We cannot do the Master's work without the Master's power; and to get it, we must spend time alone with the Master.

* **Isaiah 30:15a** For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.

* **Isaiah 40:31** But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall

walk, and not faint.

* **Lamentations 3:25,26** The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

* **Matthew 11:28-30** Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 for My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

* **John 15:4,5** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.

3. Every great man of God had to retreat alone in order to meditate, pray and commune with God.

* **Genesis 24:63a** And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide.

* **Exodus 24:15,16a,18** And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. 16a And the glory of the Lord abode upon Mount Sinai. ... 18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.

* **1 Kings 19:11,12** [Elijah had to get alone with God in order to hear His still small voice.] And He said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: 12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the

fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

* **Daniel 6:10** Daniel ... went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

* **Acts 10:9,30,31** [Peter takes quiet time in prayer, while miles away Cornelius prays, and the Lord tells each of them to get together so that Cornelius and his household can hear the message of salvation. They had never met, but were united through prayer.] On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour. ... 30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, 31 And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard. [For the whole story read all of chapter 10.]

4. If Jesus needed to spend time alone with God, how much more do we?

* **Matthew 14:23** And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone.

* **Mark 1:35** And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

* **Mark 6:46** And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray.

* **Luke 5:16** And He withdrew Himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

* **Luke 6:12** And it came to pass in those days, that He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

* **Luke 22:41** [Private desperate prayer gave Jesus the courage

and strength to go the last mile:] And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed. 42 Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me: nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto Him from Heaven, strengthening Him.

5. We need to learn to talk to the Lord, and learn to listen most of all.

* **1 Samuel 3:8b-10** And Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child [Samuel]. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if He call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for Thy servant heareth. [See verses 3-10.]

* **Psalms 85:8** I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for He will speak peace unto His people, and to His saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

* **Acts 9:6** [Newly converted Saul of Tarsus, later called Paul, gets his directions from the Lord in prayer:] And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

6. Start the day off right. Before doing anything else, talk to the Lord.

* **Psalms 4:4b** Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

* **Psalms 5:3** My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

* **Psalms 63:1** O God, Thou art my God; early will I seek Thee: my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee in a dry and

thirsty land, where no water is.

* **Psalm 119:147** I prevented [rose before] the dawning of the morning, and cried [prayed]: I hoped in Thy Word.

* **Proverbs 8:17** I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me.

7. When we get alone with the Lord, He heals and restores our souls.

* **Psalm 23:2,3a** He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. 3a He restoreth my soul.

* **Malachi 4:2a** But unto you that fear My Name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings.

* **2 Corinthians 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

8. The Lord longs for the sweet communion of heart with heart, and we should likewise. He loves to have our undivided attention.

* **Psalm 16:11** Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

* **Psalm 27:8** When Thou saidst, Seek ye My face; my heart said

unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

* **Psalm 42:1** As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

* **Psalm 84:1-3** How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! 2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. 3 Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.

* **Psalm 84:10a** For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand.

* **Psalm 130:5,6** I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His Word do I hope. 6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

* **Lamentations 3:41** Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the Heavens.

* **John 17:21-26** [Jesus' prayer to His Father was] that they [we, His followers] all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one

in Us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. 22 And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given Them; that they may be one, even as We are One: 23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me: for thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee: but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me. 26 And I have declared unto them Thy Name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

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MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S LIFE

PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).	BORN OF A VIRGIN	After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).
Out of you, Bethlehem Ephratah, shall come forth the One to be Ruler in Israel (Micah 5:2).	BORN IN BETHLEHEM	Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:1).
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11:2).	FAMED FOR WISDOM	Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52).
He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth (Isaiah 53:9).	LIVED A SINLESS LIFE	Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth (1 Peter 2:22).
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The lame shall leap like a deer (Isaiah 35:5-6).	HEALED THE NEEDY	The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear (Matthew 11:5).
The Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor (Isaiah 61:1).	PREACHED GOOD NEWS	The poor have the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:5).
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).	ENTERED JERUSALEM IN TRIUMPH	They brought the colt to Jesus, and He sat on it . . . Then those who followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! (Mark 11:7-9).

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
My own familiar friend in whom I trusted has lifted up his heel against me (Psalm 41:9).	BETRAYED BY A FRIEND	Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him (Mark 14:10).
They weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).	SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER	And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).
He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).	SILENT WHEN ACCUSED	Pilate asked, "See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing (Mark 15:4-5).
I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).	BEATEN AND SPAT UPON	Then some began to spit on Him, and the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands (Mark 14:65).
He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).	CRUCIFIED WITH SINNERS	With Him they also crucified two robbers (Mark 15:27).
They will look on Me whom they pierced (Zechariah 12:10).	HIS SIDE PIERCED	But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear (John 19:34).
He made His grave with the rich at His death (Isaiah 53:9).	BURIED WITH THE RICH	A rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph laid it in his own new tomb (Matthew 27:57-60).
You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10).	ROSE FROM THE DEAD	The angel said to them, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!" (Mark 16:6).
You have ascended on high (Psalm 68:18).	ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	He was received up into heaven (Mark 16:19).
The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand" (Psalm 110:1).	EXALTED AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND	Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:22).