

# **PROPHETS & PROPHETIC MINISTRY**



**DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING MANUAL**

**ROB WINTERS**

Prepare the Way International, Inc.

***Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training Manual***

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Published by:  
Prepare the Way International, Inc.  
Phoenix, Arizona  
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Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-0-9675907-3-8

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Welcome!

The *Prophets and Prophetic Ministry* Discipleship Training Course that you are participating in today is unique, intense and considered by many to be life-changing. I have been conducting these prophetic ministry training courses since 1995 throughout America and in Australia and Singapore. The training manual contents have been revised and enhanced many times over the years, providing participants with a quality reference that can be enjoyed for years to come. To receive the maximum benefit from the teaching modules of this training course, we encourage you to follow along closely, as this manual contains all of the material that will be covered.

Prophetic ministry has been a topic of much debate and even controversy in the Body of Christ for years. Therefore, I have made it one of my primary goals through this discipleship course to provide a Biblically based, balanced, and thorough presentation of prophetic ministry. Although aspects of the material may be quite familiar to some believers, much of the presentation is unique, eye-opening, and inspirational.

Many discipleship training courses begin and end with indoctrination. Not this one. Discipleship, in its truest sense, begins with teaching, but also includes the elements of demonstration, impartation and activation. It is therefore one of my primary goals during this discipleship training to demonstrate, as the Holy Spirit wills, spiritual gifts such as the word of knowledge, the gift of prophecy, discerning of spirits, gifts of healings, etc.

Through this course I also want to make room for the Holy Spirit to impart spiritual gifts and stir up dormant gifts that He has prepared for you. God desires that you be established in the ministry that He has ordained you to fulfill. The only way you can accomplish your mission is to not only possess the proper equipment, but also know how to use it. Therefore, I have included an activation module towards the end of this prophetic ministry discipleship training. During this module, you will have an opportunity to “get your feet wet” by ministering spiritual gifts within a small group of participants. Some begin to operate in the spiritual gifts for the very first time, and later consider the activation the most impacting module of the course.

I am grateful that you have chosen to participate in this prophetic ministry training course. Your life and ministry quite possibly may never be the same again!

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Winters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rob Winters  
President  
Prepare the Way International



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## **I. PROPHETIC DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING METHODOLOGY**

For this prophetic discipleship training, we have adopted Jesus' discipleship principles outlined in chapters 5 through 10 of Matthew's gospel.

### **A. Indoctrination**

Matthew 5-7 If you have a Bible that has Jesus' words in red, chapters five through seven of Matthew's gospel are almost completely crimson in color. These chapters record Jesus' teaching of His disciples regarding the Gospel of the kingdom. Unfortunately many discipleship training courses end at this step.

### **B. Demonstration**

Matthew 8-9 After Jesus indoctrinated His disciples, He demonstrated the Gospel of the kingdom by cleansing a leper, healing the sick, calming the sea, casting out demons, and restoring sight to the blind.

*As part of your prophetic discipleship training, we endeavor to demonstrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit as He wills.*

### **C. Impartation**

After the Gospel indoctrination and demonstration, Jesus imparted to or empowered the disciples with the same supernatural gifts.

Matthew 10:1 "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of diseases."

*During your personal ministry time, trust the Lord for an impartation of those supernatural gifts the Holy Spirit has prepared for you to receive.*

### **D. Activation**

The Lord then sent out the disciples to freely preach and demonstrate the gospel of the kingdom everywhere they went.

Matthew 10:7-8 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."

*Towards the end of your training today, you will have an opportunity to activate and exercise your prophetic gifting. Enjoy this enlightening experience.*

## **II. THE PROPHETIC MOVEMENT**

### **A. What is Prophecy?**

Traditional Definition: End times Biblical literature concerning the Bride of Christ, the Rapture, the Great Tribulation, the second coming of Christ and the Millennial reign. Prophetic literature is contained in the Old Testament and New Testament, especially in the Prophets and the Book of Revelation.

Present Truth Definition: The edifying, exhortative, and comforting "rhema" word of the Lord manifested through preaching, prophecy, signs, dreams and visions, producing throughout the Body, repentance from sin, restoration of hope, and direction for the future.

#### **1. If God speaks through the Bible, why do I need prophecy?**

Scripture is God's eternal written word for all time. (Logos)  
Prophecy is God's "now" spoken word for our time. (Rhema)

The Bible provides general direction on how to live the Christian life, but the Holy Spirit through prophecy can give specific direction for individual lives.

#### **2. Why is prophecy so important?**

Prophecy is a heavenly invitation to a divine destination.

I Corinthians 14:39 "Desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak with tongues."

I Corinthians 14:3 "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."

Prophecy is so important because, like no other spiritual gift, it:

- a. Encourages
- b. Defines Destiny (Speaks to your potential).
- c. Infuses Hope
- d. Rebukes and Admonishes (Luke 3:7-9,18)

We must first "set the mark" before we can "press toward the mark" for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Prophetic ministry can "set the mark" pointing us to our divine destiny (Phil 3:14).

#### **3. Can all Spirit-filled Christians prophesy?**

I Corinthians 14:31 "For you can ALL prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

**4. Will I be used in spiritual gifts if I'm just "open" to it?**

Not likely. The Bible says we must earnestly desire (i.e. covet) spiritual gifts, if we are going to be used by God in them.

I Corinthians 14:1 ". . . desire (lit. earnestly covet) spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

**5. What should be my motivation to "move out" in spiritual gifts?**

Like Jesus, we should be "moved with compassion" for people, always seeking to be used to build up and bless the church and to win souls. Our motivation should not be to be seen or recognized.

I Corinthians 14:1 "Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts . . . ."

I Corinthians 14:12 "Since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel."

Perfect love casts out the fear (i.e. apprehension and intimidation) that hinders many from moving out in spiritual gifts (I John 4:18)

**6. Can prophecy reveal my future and destiny?**

Yes. Although prophecy primarily is used to encourage and build up, it also can have an aspect of revealing one's future and destiny.

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; . . . and He will tell you things to come."

Some erroneously believe that personal prophecy only serves to confirm what the Holy Spirit has previously revealed to an individual. On the contrary, a genuine personal prophetic word can introduce new aspects and details regarding one's purpose, calling and destiny.

***B. Old and New Testament Prophets***

**1. What characterizes Old Testament prophets?**

- a. Primary Means of Communicating Divine Will, Purpose and Direction
- b. Other Means of Determining God's Will
  - (1) Priests
  - (2) Kings
  - (3) Angels
  - (4) Dreams, Visions, Signs, & Supernatural Manifestations

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

### c. Great Responsibility & Grave Penalty

- (1) Prophecy Led Entire Nations to Triumph or Tragedy
- (2) Penalty for False Prophets

Deuteronomy 18:20 "But a prophet who presumes to speak in My name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." NIV

## **2. How are New Testament prophets different from Old Testament prophets?**

### a. Secondary Means of Communicating Divine Will, Purpose and Direction

### b. Primary and Secondary Means of Determining God's Will

- (1) Bible (Primary)
- (2) Indwelling Holy Spirit (Primary)
- (3) Five-Fold Ministry Gifts (Secondary)
- (4) Prophecy, Signs, Dreams, Visions, Angels (Secondary)

### c. Balanced Responsibility

- (1) Primary Means of Communicating Divine Will Serve to "Check and Balance" Secondary Means.
- (2) Godly Counsel vs. Personal Prophecy (Eg. Marriage)

Proverbs 11:14 "in the multitude of counselors there is safety."

## **3. Is prophecy equal in authority to the Bible?**

No. Prophecy is a secondary means of communicating God's will, purpose and direction for our lives. Prophecy must agree with the Bible and the Holy Spirit that indwells every believer.

## ***C. Restoring the Office of the Prophet***

### **1. How is the Lord restoring His kingdom? (Acts 3:19-21)**

- (v. 19) Times of Repentance
- (v. 21) Times of Restoration
- (v. 19) Times of Refreshing/Revival

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

- a. The Gospel of the Kingdom ~ Doctrines of Christ (Hebrews 6:1, 2)
  - (1) Repentance from Dead Works    1500s   Protestant Movement
  - (2) Faith toward God                    1800s   Holiness Movement
  - (3) Doctrines of Baptism                1900s   Pentecostal Movement
  - (4) Laying on of Hands                 1950s   Charismatic Movement
  - (5) Resurrection of the Dead         1980s   Prophetic Movement
  - (6) Eternal Judgment                    1990s   Apostolic Movement
  
- b. The Governor of the Kingdom ~ Holy Spirit  
Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant.  
The Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the New Covenant.  
The Azusa Street Revival of 1905 commenced the restoration of the Governor of the Kingdom – the Holy Spirit.
  
- c. The Gifts of the Kingdom (I Corinthians 12:7-11)  
The Administrator of the Kingdom, the Holy Spirit, also distributes His nine gifts to the saints individually as He wills.
  
- d. The Government of the Kingdom ~ Five-Fold Ministry Gifts (Eph. 4:11-13)
  - (1) Evangelist    1950s   Deliverance Evangelism
  - (2) Pastor        1960s   Charismatic Renewal
  - (3) Teacher     1970s   Faith Teaching Movement
  - (4) Prophet     1980s   Prophetic Movement
  - (5) Apostle     1990s   Apostolic Movement
  - (6) Saints       2000s   Saints Movement
  
- e. The Glory of the Kingdom ~ Dominion (Revelation 11:15)  
  
Revelation 5:10 “And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.”
  
- f. The Greatness of the Kingdom ~ Humility  
  
Matthew 18:4 “Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

## **2. How are prophets preparing the way for Christ's second coming?**

- a. John the Baptist, a prophet, prepared the way of the Lord's first coming by preaching repentance (Matthew 3:1-6).
  
- b. Similarly, God is assembling a company of prophets in this hour to preach repentance in preparation for the Lord's second coming (II Chronicles 7:14).

**D. The Gift of Prophecy vs. the Office of the Prophet**

**1. Must I have the gift of prophecy to prophesy?**

No. All Spirit-filled believers can prophesy. The gift of prophecy is a spiritual gift that God entrusts certain Christians with. These people operate in prophecy most frequently and with greater authority.

**2. If I have the gift of prophecy, am I a prophet?**

Not necessarily. Prophets, like all ministry offices, are called by God before birth. No matter how much one develops their prophetic gift, no one can appoint themselves to the office of the prophet. Only God can make that governmental appointment.

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

**3. How can I recognize a prophet?**

A prophet usually:

- a. Has a pulpit ministry, and is a preacher of the Gospel like the apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.
- b. Is sent to minister to a specific group of people, namely a particular church, denomination, fellowship of churches, city or nation. (Eg: David Wilkerson - Prophet to America)
- c. Delivers a particular message to the Church. (Eg: Kenneth Hagin: "Teach My People Faith")
- d. Operates powerfully, not only in prophecy, but also in the word of knowledge, the word of wisdom and discernment of spirits. Prophets sometimes operate in gifts of healings, the gift of faith and working of miracles.
- e. Has dreams, visions, and signs from the Lord and is assisted by ministering angels.

**4. What is a "prophet's reward"?**

Matthew 10:41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward."

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

Prophet's Reward - The blessing or reward that comes to those who honor the prophet and believe in and act on the word of the Lord the prophet delivers.

Prophets Without Honor - If the prophet is not recognized or esteemed as a prophet, oftentimes people will not receive and treasure the prophetic message delivered. This is often the case for prophets whose ministry's scope is local or regional.

Close to 95% of all prophets are called to exclusively minister locally or regionally, not nationally or internationally (Mark 6:1-6)

Matthew 13:57 "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house."

### **III. SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS**

The process of fulfilling our personal prophetic destiny parallels running a race.

"On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!" ~ Calling, Conditioning, Commissioning"

II Timothy 1:9 "(Our Lord) who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."

#### **A. The Calling ~ "On Your Mark!"**

- Prophetic ministry is one means by which the mark to our destiny is set.
- Many Christians are running in circles, neither discerning their calling nor their course, much less their finish line.
- Unfortunately, about 80% of the church does not know their divine calling and purpose.
- This is one reason why Paul exhorts the church to desire (literally: "earnestly covet") spiritual gifts, especially prophecy (I Corinthians 14:1).

#### **B. The Conditioning ~ "Get Set!"**

Conditioning or preparation is an important aspect to fulfilling our personal, prophetic destiny.

### 3 Aspects of Conditioning

#### **1. Character Building**

Divine callings with potentially wider scopes of influence usually require deeper, longer and more intense seasons of conditioning or preparation. The Lord is faithful to prepare His chosen before releasing them to minister to the masses. For example, Moses and Joseph endured years of trial and betrayal before they were prepared to fulfill their destiny.

The Lord deals with our:

- a. Manhood and Motives before releasing Ministry
- b. Character before Commissioning
- c. Attitude before releasing Anointing

#### **2. Gift Development**

Mentoring ~ Mentoring has become a lost art in the Body of Christ. With so many selfishly seeking to fulfill their own purpose in the kingdom of God, we have neglected to befriend, train and encourage the next generation.

- a. Elijah and Elisha
- b. Moses and Joshua
- c. Paul and Timothy
- d. Samuel & Company of Prophets

Excellence & Accuracy ~ Prophetic gifts develop through use. Their maturity is measured by the degree of their excellence and accuracy.

Daniel 5:12 "Inasmuch as an excellent spirit, knowledge, understanding, interpreting dreams, solving riddles and explaining enigmas were found in this Daniel."

I Samuel 3:19 "So Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground."

#### **3. Time**

False Starts ~ Many never leave the starting blocks or have numerous "false starts", because they have been unwilling to submit to God's often difficult preparation process.

Jumping the Gun ~ Pre-mature self commissioning.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

God says, “I’m holding the gun to signal you to start your race, and I’ll pull the trigger, when its time.”

### **C. The Commissioning ~ “Go!”**

Our commissioning is God’s release to begin running the race towards fulfilling our divine purpose. We have successfully completed God’s tests to where He can trust us to represent Him in the Kingdom.

Romans 1:1 “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God.”

Calling and commissioning are two different aspects of divine appointment. Our calling is established in the heart of God before time began (II Timothy 1:9). Our commissioning or release to fulfill our calling is dependent on our willingness to submit to the Lord’s process of conditioning and to divine timing. Truly, our submission precedes our commission.

### **D. The Cause ~ “Running with Purpose”**

Without a cause, when the race becomes difficult, the temptation to quit can become overwhelming.

#### **1. Common Corporate Purpose**

Having a collaborative and far-reaching cause will empower us to continue running the race in the face of adversity. Those with short-sighted, selfish causes often quit. Indeed, running with a group having a common goal will result in course completion for the majority more often than if they all run alone.

David challenged all the men of Israel before he challenged and slew Goliath regarding the reproach the Philistines brought on the nation of Israel by saying, “Is there not a cause?” (I Samuel 17:29).

#### **2. Laying Aside the Weight of Sin**

Sin is an encumbrance that prohibits multitudes from completing their course and fulfilling their destiny. We must lay aside the weight of sin so that we can run with endurance and finish our race.

Hebrews 12:1 “. . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

I Corinthians 9:25-27 “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate (lit. “exercises self control”) in all things . . . therefore . . . I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

### **3. Running with Endurance**

Fulfilling one's destiny is like running a marathon, not a 100 meter dash. Therefore endurance is a key ingredient to our success.

Hebrews 12:1 “. . . let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Endurance is the capacity to hold up under the most difficult circumstances and is akin to patience, longsuffering and perseverance. Endurance remains steadfast through the tests of adversity and time, finishes the course, and receives the prize.

Hebrews 10:36 “For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

Hebrews 6:12 “. . . do not become sluggish (lit. lazy), but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

### ***E. The Crown ~ “Finishing Your Race”***

Starting our race will not guarantee a victor's crown - only finishing will. Therefore, Apostle Paul was not moved by the trials and tribulations he endured for the gospel's sake. He refused to waver from the call of God on his life, even at the expense of his life.

Acts 20:24 “But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.”

2 Timothy 4:6-7 “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

The heavenly rewards for those believers who fight the good fight of faith and finish their course are numerous, including the crown of righteousness.

II Timothy 4:8 “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

## **IV. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

After receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit can be the single most important event in the life of a believer. Holy Spirit empowerment is crucial to the activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in not only prophets, but every believer.

### **A. *The Indwelling Holy Spirit***

**Does the Holy Spirit indwell every believer? Yes.**

Romans 8:9 “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”  
(See also II Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)

I Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

### **B. *The Promise of the Holy Spirit***

**Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for every believer? Yes.**

Although one doesn't have to receive the gift/promise/baptism of the Holy Spirit to inherit eternal life, God's desires every believer to receive this gift. The Holy Spirit no longer merely resides within, but presides over one who receives the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39 “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

### **C. *Speaking in Tongues***

**Can one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues?**

Almost every New Testament account of believers receiving the gift/promise/baptism of the Holy Spirit mentions that they spoke with other tongues.

Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 10:45-46 “The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

Acts 19:6 “And when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

### ***D. Benefits of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit***

**Of what benefit is receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues?**

a. Power to Be Witnesses

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

b. Perfected Prayer & Thanksgiving to God

Romans 8:26-27 “For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings, which cannot be uttered. He (Holy Spirit) makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” (See also I Corinthians 14:1,2,14-17)

c. Personal Spiritual Edification and Refreshing

I Corinthians 14:4 “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”

Jude 20 “But you beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit . . . “

Isaiah 28:11-12 “For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest, and this is the refreshing.”

### ***E. Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit***

**How does one receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?**

Simply ask the Father for it, receiving the Holy Spirit, similar to receiving Christ. As one moves one’s lips and speaks by faith, the Holy Spirit will bubble up within and supply a supernatural language. (See John 7:38-39, Proverbs 20:27)

Luke 11:13 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

## **V. FORMS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

### ***A. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit***

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine graces from God used to not only bless the Church but win the lost. These gifts are outlined in I Corinthians 12: 7-11.

#### **1. Utterance Gifts**

Prophets and prophetic people primarily operate in the:

- a. Gift of Prophecy - A divine message in a known tongue (i.e. English).
- b. Gift of Tongues - A divine message in an unknown or foreign tongue.
- c. Interpretation of Tongues - Interpreting a divine message in an unknown tongue into the common language of the people.

#### **2. Revelation Gifts**

The prophet's ministry is also characterized by the:

- a. Word of Knowledge - Knowledge about a person or situation that was not gained through natural means, but revealed by the Holy Spirit. (e.g. The Lord wants to heal someone of kidney disease.)
- b. Word of Wisdom – Divine revelation about how or when to take action about a situation or decision. (e.g. Wait another year before getting married, as the Lord has some key situations that He wants you to have victory in before you make that commitment. )
- c. Discerning of Spirits – Divine revelation through the Holy Spirit revealing by what spirit one is operating under (e.g. spirit of jealousy, spirit of anger, spirit of fear, haughty spirit, spirit of grief, etc.) This first spirit we should discern is our own.

#### **3. Power Gifts**

Prophet's sometimes operate in:

- a. Gifts of Healings - Divine power to impart physical healing.
- b. Working of Miracles - Divine power at work to perform supernatural acts (e.g. Multiplying the loaves and fish, walking on water, changing water to wine, raising the dead.)

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

- c. Gift of Faith - Divine faith necessary to obtain a supernatural response to an urgent prayer or need. (e.g. Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on the water).

### **B. Prophetic Teams**

The effectiveness of personal prophetic ministry can be greatly enhanced by prophetic teams, where a more defined word from the Lord through more than one prophetic minister brings greater edification and confirmation.

### **C. Dreams and Visions**

The office of the prophet is oftentimes characterized by frequent dreams and visions from the Lord.

Numbers 12:6 "If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision, and I speak to him in a dream."

#### **1. Is God speaking to me through my dreams?**

Not all dreams are from God. However, the Lord sometimes speaks prophetically through dreams and visions.

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

Job 33:15-16 "In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction."

#### **2. Are my dreams a warning or direction from God?**

Sometimes a prophetic dream or vision will serve as a warning about a particular hazardous circumstance or person, bring new or confirming direction, or bring new revelation.

- a. Joseph, Mary and Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15)
- b. Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:9-48)
- c. The Apostle John (Revelation)

#### **3. Can I interpret my dreams and visions from God?**

Yes. Sometimes the Lord gives us dreams and visions that are in parables. He tests our hearts in this to see if we will seek Him and search out the meaning. Sometimes He will lead us to a prophet for the interpretation.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

Proverbs 25:2 "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter."

Genesis 41:12 "Now there was a young Hebrew man (Joseph) with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dream for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream."

Daniel 1:17 "As for these four men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

### ***D. Prophetic Prayer and Intercession***

A portion of the prophet's ministry takes place behind closed doors in the privacy of prayer. That which a prophet prays and prophesies in secret sometimes is never publicly spoken. However the results of prophetic prayer are often later publicly manifested.

#### **1. What is prophetic prayer?**

Prophetic prayer is Holy Spirit inspired prayer that not only prophetically declares the will of God in a matter, but decrees its fulfillment.

#### **2. What is an example of prophetic prayer in the Bible?**

John 17 is an example of a prophetic prayer. In it, Jesus prophetically prayed, instructed and decreed the Father's will concerning Himself, His disciples and the Church.

John 17:21 "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

#### **3. Should I intercede privately before I prophesy publicly?**

Private intercession for God's people should proceed public prophesying. Private intercession prepares people's hearts to hear and obey the word of the Lord (Isaiah 59:16, Jeremiah 9:1).

### ***E. Prophetic Signs, Gestures and Parables***

The Lord will sometimes use the prophet to perform prophetic signs, gestures or use parables to communicate a message to people. Only those with softened hearts will seek to know the meaning of it, that they might obey the Lord.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

Matthew 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

### **1. How was prophet Jeremiah's life a sign to Judah?**

Jeremiah was forbidden to marry, as an object lesson and sign to Judah of imminent judgment (Jeremiah 16:2).

### **2. How was prophet Ezekiel's entire life a prophetic sign?**

Ezekiel was probably used by God to perform more prophetic signs and gestures than any prophet in the Old Testament.

Ezekiel 24:24 "Thus Ezekiel is a sign to you; according to all that he has done you shall do; and when this comes, you shall know that I am the Lord God."

- a. Clay Tablet Portrayal of Jerusalem's Siege (Ezekiel 4:1-3).
- b. Laying on His Side For Number of Days According to Number of Years of Israel's (390) and Judah's (40) Rebellion (Ezekiel 4: 4-8).
- c. Eat Bread Cooked By Fire Fueled With Human Waste (Ezekiel 4:9-17, 5:14-17)
- d. Cut Off His Hair and Beard With a Sword (Ezekiel 5:1-4, 12)
- e. Ezekiel Wife's Life Taken As Prophetic Sign of Israel's Judgment (Ezekiel 24:15-27)

## ***F. Prophetic Music, Song, Dance, Drama & Poetry***

Prophetic music, song, dance and drama effectively communicate or enhance a prophetic message. This type of ministry often leaves an indelible impression of the word of the Lord that remains in the hearts and minds of God's people.

### **1. Can music increase the prophetic anointing?**

Music can either enhance or detract from the prophetic anointing.

II Kings 3:15 "But now bring me a musician. And it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him (Elisha)."

I Chronicles 1:1,3 ". . . who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals . . . who prophesied with a harp to give thanks and praise the Lord."

**2. Can the prophetic be demonstrated through song, dance, drama and poetry?**

After the Lord led the children of Israel across the parted waters of the Red Sea, delivering them from the Egyptians, Moses led a prophetic song and Miriam led a prophetic dance to imprint this miraculous act in their hearts and minds. (Exodus 15:1-20)

Exodus 15:20 "Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances."

Drama, illustrated sermons, human videos and poetry also can be especially effective in communicating timely prophetic messages from the Lord.

**G. Prophetic Evangelism**

**1. How may prophetic evangelism work in a Church setting?**

Recipients of prophetic ministry in the church have oftentimes been restricted to believers. Nevertheless, the Apostle Paul encouraged the use of the gift of prophecy to win unbelievers to Christ in the church.

I Corinthians 14:24-25 "But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is judged by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you."

**2. Is there a good New Testament example of prophetic evangelism being practiced out in the world?**

For the most part, prophetic ministry has been limited to within the four walls of the church. The forms of prophetic ministry shared in this section so far have been utilized in a church setting. When we think of prophetic ministry, we picture a prophet spending hours giving personal prophetic words over hopeful Christians.

Although prophetic ministry within the church has its place, the Lord's foremost intention was for Christians to utilize prophetic gifts in arenas where they have influence including media, government, education, the work place and marketplace. Therefore, we need to discover new ways to evangelize and impact those in the world around us using prophetic gifts.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

### **a. Jesus' Example**

In John 4:5-42 Jesus encounters a Samaritan women at a well. The scenario in which Jesus found Himself parallels a present day encounter we might have in a grocery store or some other public place.

#### (1) Remove Religious Barriers and Jargon

John 4:9 “Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.”  
“Christians have no dealings with sinners.” (Present)

We must be willing to leave the comfort of our church paradigm and be willing to enter the world of the unsaved to reach them. This entails abandoning religious phraseology and meeting people at their level.

#### (2) Psychics vs. Prophets

John 4:19 “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.”  
“You must be psychic.” (Present)

It is an indictment on the church when our culture equates supernatural revelation with psychic phenomenon instead of prophetic gifting. Thus the great need for prophetic training.

#### (3) The Word of Knowledge

John 4:29 “See a Man who told me **all** things that I ever did.”  
“See a Man who read my mail.” (Present)

Notice in this passage that the women indicated that Jesus told her all things that she ever did. His revelation regarding her life was not restricted to what is recorded in verses 17 and 18 of John 4.

#### (4) White Harvest Fields

John 4:35 “Do not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest.’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

In the “rat race” world in which we live, we all have a tendency to go about our business, ignoring those around us. In this passage, Jesus is exhorting us to simply “lift up our eyes” and look around at the numerous opportunities we have every day to minister the life saving gospel of Christ.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

### (5) Salvation Through Revelation

John 4:39-42 “And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did . . . and many more believed because of His own word . . . Now we believe, for we have heard for ourselves.”

In this account, there is no record of any healings, miracles, or casting out of demons. Jesus, through the gift of the word of knowledge, caused virtually an entire Samaritan city to believe in Him as Savior.

#### **b. Becoming Salt and Light**

Many Charismatics and Pentecostals have embraced the gifts of the Spirit and prophetic ministry, but have forgotten the Great Commission. Instead of going out into the world to make disciples, many have further isolated themselves from the world and retreated into the familiar confines of their local church.

The Lord wants us to continue to be encouraged and equipped in the church, but also wants us out in the world so that we can be “salt and light”. Each believer is on assignment in the workplace. Whether in the education, media, government, marketplace or domestic venues, we all are to have influence for Christ. There are people that God has placed in your life that only you and a few others can reach for Him.

There are different forms of evangelism that we have been taught over the years, including power evangelism, healing evangelism, servant evangelism and presence evangelism. Prophetic evangelism is yet another way for us to win the lost to Christ.

We, as Spirit empowered Christians, need to be looking for opportunities to use prophetic gifts (i.e. the word of knowledge) to win souls and influence people for Christ wherever we go.

## **VI. PROPHETIC PROTOCOL**

When ministering prophetically, one must give consideration to setting, audience and timing. Prophets must also minister under the strictest standards of integrity.

### **A. Prophetic Accountability**

- 1. What means can be taken to protect the prophetic minister and better edify the recipient?**

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

- a. Although a recipient's spiritual authority may not be present to hear a personal prophetic word, whenever possible audio recordings of prophetic words should be made for the protection of the prophetic minister and edification of the recipient. Personal prophetic words can then be reviewed later by a person's pastor or spiritual covering if questions or clarification are needed.

*Prepare the Way International provides recipients with prophetic ministry feedback forms as an avenue for positive and constructive feedback regarding their personal prophetic word.*

- b. Unbridled, "lone ranger" prophets, no matter how accurate, due to a lack of accountability, have a greater potential of being wounded, misunderstood and discrediting prophetic ministry in general.

### **2. What are pastors' responsibilities with regard to prophetic ministry in the church?**

- a. Pastors should expose their church to proven prophetic ministries and literature.
- b. Pastors are to maintain order by setting guidelines for prophecy in services, responding to accurate prophecies and judging, publicly or privately, inaccurate or presumptuous prophecies.
- c. Pastors are to mentor budding prophets by rejoicing with them in their triumphs, standing with them in their failures and correcting them in love when necessary.
- d. Nevertheless, oftentimes, pastors are not trained in prophetic ministry and require assistance.

*Prepare the Way International conducts prophetic ministry discipleship training courses at local churches to assist pastors with the training and mentoring of prophets-in-training.*

### **3. What if my church is a "non-prophet" organization?**

- a. Many churches and leaders, having been hurt by immature prophetic ministers or having a lack of understanding concerning the prophetic, resist or reject altogether prophetic ministry.
- b. Those having prophetic ministry gifts that are squelched or ignored should not rebel against their present authority but trust God to direct them to supportive spiritual authority. (Proverbs 18:16, Romans 11:29)

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part I*

*Prepare the Way International encourages local and regional prophets to build relationships of trust with local pastors.*

### **B. Congregational Prophecy**

#### **1. Should prophecies to my church be uplifting in general?**

A prophetic word delivered to an assembly of believers is usually intended by the Lord to bring edification, exhortation and comfort.

I Corinthians 14:12 "Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel."

#### **2. Should a prophecy ever call my church to repentance?**

At times, the Lord will use a prophetic word to bring His people to repentance. This kind of prophecy is usually ministered by a mature, proven prophetic minister and is usually accompanied by a solemn spirit of repentance to which the church should immediately respond.

#### **3. What are some practical guidelines for congregational prophecy?**

- a. Ensure the word is for the whole congregation, and not just a few within the congregation or a word just for you.
- b. A prepared heart through prayer and/or fasting often increases the anointing and effectiveness of the prophetic word.
- c. Ensure your heart is not bitter or you are prophesying with judgment in your heart toward leadership. Ensure that you are not prophesying your will or sermon to manipulate leadership.
- d. Although you believe a particular word is for the congregation, ensure an unction or anointing from the Lord is present to deliver the word.
- e. Ensure the word of prophecy flows with the Holy Spirit's theme for the service as not to quench the Spirit. Avoid redundant prophecies.
- f. Ensure that it is the proper time and place to deliver the word. Follow acceptable protocol of each particular church.

### **C. Prophecy to Leadership**

#### **1. Is it OK to prophesy to a leader publicly?**

Prophecy affirming a leader before the people or confirming a leader concerning a greater ministerial calling or responsibility may be given publicly.

#### **2. What kinds of prophetic words should be delivered privately?**

Prophecy involving new direction for a ministry, changes in leadership or ministry emphasis or prophecy bringing correction should be ministered in private (I Samuel 15:13-31).

Similarly, personal prophetic words to leaders should never uncover their sins publicly. Instead, prophets should address a leader's sins in private. Remember, love covers a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8).

### **D. Prophetic Integrity**

#### **1. What can be done to insure integrity in prophetic ministry?**

It is imperative that prophets when ministering distinguish to their audience if knowledge they obtained about a person came through a source other than the Holy Spirit.

There is a temptation for prophets to take information they received about someone from another person and prophesy as if they received that information supernaturally.

This practice makes the prophet look spectacular in the eyes of the people, but is a deception. A prophet who operates in this realm of deception will eventually get caught and it will serve to discredit them.

*Prepare the Way International desires to move prophetic ministry from the "incredible to the credible" and from the "spectacular to the supernatural."*

#### **2. Should I ever minister privately to someone of the opposite sex?**

Ministry should never occur in a private room, one-on-one with someone of the opposite sex. A third party should always be present to avoid any form of impropriety.

## **VII. PERSONAL PROPHETIC MINISTRY**

### **A. Ministering Personal Prophecy**

Personal prophecy should edify, exhort and comfort the hearer, providing at times confirmation, correction and insight for the future.

#### **1. Should I be listening for God’s audible voice?**

No. If God speaks to you out loud, you’ll never forget it.

Usually, the Holy Spirit gives you a slight inward impression. Listen for a still small inward voice. You may just have a “knowing” inside about something or someone.

The Holy Spirit is a gentle whisperer. You have to still yourself many times to hear His voice.

Sometimes, you may see an inward picture of something that requires interpretation.

Your body may start hurting all of a sudden in a particular area for no reason. That might be a word of knowledge that God wants to heal someone in that area.

Sometimes, the Lord will bring a particular scripture to mind for someone.

#### **2. Is there something I can do to improve my ability to hear from God?**

Yes. Pray in tongues a lot! Praying in tongues builds up your spirit man and puts you in tune with the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 14:18 “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all.”

Earnestly ask God everyday to be used in spiritual gifts to bless people.

#### **3. Should I record the prophetic words I administer to others?**

If at all possible, all personal prophecies should be recorded on tape or written down for the edification of the recipient and protection of the prophetic minister. Sometimes what we thought we heard and what was actually said are two different things.

**4. What is the difference between ministering the “secret of the Lord” and the “secrets of men’s hearts”?**

I Corinthians 14:24,25 “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is judged by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

Psalm 25:14 “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him.”

It is often easier to discern the soul desires of an individual than God’s purposes for them. Humility and the fear of the Lord keep one from prophesying the secret desires of men’s hearts as the word of the Lord to them.

**5. Should my prophecy ever be corrective or directive in nature?**

Prophecies that bring correction or direction to another’s life should be administered by mature prophets. Prophecies of this nature should be given with discretion and recorded, along with opportunity for feedback.

**6. Does personal prophecy have any boundaries?**

Prophecy should never dictate marriage partners, job changes, relocations, church selection, financial investments and any of the major decisions of life. They may however serve as confirmation on such decisions.

**7. Are there times when prophetic ministry should defer to sound Biblical counseling?**

Prophecy is not Christian fortune telling and should never substitute for sound Biblical advice and prayerful counseling.

**8. Should personal prophecies be treated as confidential?**

Personal prophecies should not be delivered in a manner that would cause shame or embarrassment to the recipient.

**9. Should I strive more to be accurate than impressive with my prophetic gift?**

Our goal in prophetic ministry is to have recipients receive an accurate word from the Lord, not to impress them with our gifting. For people to receive, they must believe the word spoken over them. Prophetic accuracy raises recipient’s faith.

**10. If I'm not sure about a particular revelation, is it OK to ask the recipient a question about something specific I'm receiving?**

If unsure about a particular revelation, instead of making a declaration, it is often better to simply ask a question. For instance, if a minister prophesies, "The Lord says, I am healing you from heart disease", and the person does not have heart disease, a degree of faith in the word and credibility of the minister is lost. However if the minister asks, "Are you suffering from heart disease?" there is no loss of credibility if the minister is incorrect. If the minister is correct the ministry going forth can be just as effective as if a declaration was made.

**11. Should I try to emulate another prophetic minister, or should I be content with the level of gifting I'm operating at?**

Each prophet has a different type and degree of gifting. Attempting to emulate another with a greater prophetic gift will result in frustration and incredibility. We should ask the Lord for more detailed and specific words, but should simply minister within the limits of our current level of gifting.

The goal of prophetic ministry is for people to receive from God, not for the prophet to appear spectacular or incredible.

***B. Receiving Personal Prophecy***

**1. Is the personal prophecy I received 100% accurate?**

Unlike Scripture, personal prophetic words are subject to error, due to the human condition. Although we strive for 100% accuracy, the words we receive are often in part (I Corinthians 13:9, 12).

**2. Why can interpreting a word from God be so complicated?**

Keep in mind that there are three components to most prophecies.

- a. Revelation – The divine dream, vision, sign or word.
- b. Interpretation – The meaning of the dream, vision or sign.
- c. Application – The correct action or response to the prophecy.

If any one of these three parts is mishandled, a degree of inaccuracy is introduced.

**3. Can the timing of a prophetic word be a difficult thing for a prophet to discern accurately?**

Time, the fourth dimension, is one variable that can often be mishandled. A prophetic minister may assume that an event is about to occur in someone's life, when it has already happened. On the other hand, the prophetic minister may think that an event has already occurred in someone's life, but will happen in the future.

***C. Fulfilling Your Personal Prophecy***

Any divinely inspired prophetic word requires the cooperative response of its recipient for the word to be fulfilled.

**1. What can I do to cooperate with my prophecy?**

Maintain positive attitudes of patience, humility and submission toward your personal word, along with actions of faith and obedience in keeping with the word.

I Thessalonians 5:20 "Do not despise prophecies."

**2. Should I think about my prophetic word often, or just forget about it?**

Record, read, and meditate upon the prophetic word you have received, so that you begin to believe and behave in accordance with it.

**3. What if I cannot relate to my prophecy?**

Bear witness to the prophecy. Your spirit may agree with the word, even if your mind does not. If you receive a prophecy that you do not understand, but you have a peace in your heart about it, ask the Lord to reveal the word's meaning. Hold onto the word, until the Lord fulfills the word.

I Thessalonians 5:21 "Test all things; hold fast what is good."

**4. What if my personal prophecy grieves me?**

If a particular word of prophecy agitates or grieves your spirit, release and renounce it. If retained, it could confuse, trouble or defile you.

**5. Will my personal prophecy come to pass, or will I have to fight for it to see it fulfilled?**

Prophetic words and our divine destiny are not fulfilled without our consent and cooperation. We must keep those words before us continually, speaking and acting in accordance with them (I Tim. 4:14, II Timothy 1:6).

**6. Should I act immediately on my personal prophetic word?**

Do nothing different immediately unless definitely directed. If we rest in God and are faithful in serving where He has placed us, promotion and advancement toward fulfilling our divine purpose will come.

Psalm 105:19 “Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.”

**7. What variables in life may affect the fulfillment of my prophetic word?**

- a. People - Recognize that your destiny is interwoven with the lives of others. Family, friends, pastors, employers and other influential people in our lives may make decisions that are not in keeping with our divine purpose. Nevertheless, despite mistakes, if we keep our hearts right, God will provide an alternate path for us to fulfill our ultimate destiny.
- b. Time - Time is also another variable that has a way of testing all of us. Some prophetic words are fulfilled in a week, others in a year or ten years, still others take a lifetime to fulfill. Be patient. God is faithful to fulfill His personal promises, no matter how big or small.

## **VIII. PROPHETIC DEMONSTRATION AND IMPARTATION**

Ministry in the church today is often limited to indoctrination. We all have received many teachings, but few of us regularly witness a demonstration of spiritual gifts and fewer yet have had an opportunity to receive an impartation of those gifts.

### ***A. Your Personal Prophecy***

During this second part of the course you may have an opportunity to receive personal prophetic ministry. During your ministry time, you will personally experience a demonstration of one or more of the following: the gift of prophecy, word of wisdom or word of knowledge, physical or emotional healing, discerning of spirits, demonic deliverance.

#### **1. Cassette Recording**

You will receive a cassette recording of your personal word and ministry. We encourage you to record the word in a journal and meditate on it. We often forget much of what is spoken over us.

#### **2. Feedback Form**

We also encourage you to complete a copy of the personal prophetic ministry feedback form, a copy of which is included in the back of this syllabus. This gives you an opportunity to provide both positive and constructive feedback so that the prophetic ministers can grow in their gift. In addition, we encourage you to share your word with your spiritual authority (e.g. pastor) and to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns.

### ***B. Prophetic Impartation***

During your personal ministry time, we desire to stir up any dormant prophetic gifts within you and identify and impart any prophetic gifts the Lord has prepared for you to receive.

Romans 1:11 “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established.”

I Timothy 4:14 “Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

II Timothy 1:6 “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

## **IX. THE SPIRIT OF THE PROPHET**

### **A. *The Testimony of Jesus***

#### **1. Our Model for Every Five-Fold Ministry Gift**

Jesus is the only person who ministered in full capacity of the office of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher.

#### **2. Speaking Only God's Words**

Because Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure, He perfectly communicated the word and will of the Father.

John 3:34 "For He Whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure."

#### **3. The Fruit of the Spirit**

Because Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure, He also walked perfectly in all the fruit of the Spirit (Galations 5:22, 23).

Revelation 19:10 "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

### **B. *The Spirit of Prophecy***

#### **1. Humility**

##### **a. Jesus**

Humility was Jesus' trademark. Jesus' spirit of humility was characterized by extreme obedience, even to the point of death, which enabled the Father to exalt Him as Lord of all (Philippians 2:8, 9).

Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

##### **b. Moses**

In the Old Testament, Moses exemplified the true spirit of prophecy which is characterized by humility.

Numbers 12:3 "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth."

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part II*

Some prophets want to be highly esteemed and are not willing to train or impart prophetic gifts to others. These prophets are full of pride and are self-seeking.

Joshua entreated Moses to forbid Eldad and Medad, two of the seventy elders, from prophesying in the camp. Yet Moses sought for all of God's people to prophesy, and responded thus:

Numbers 11:29 "Then Moses said to him, 'Are you jealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!'"

### **2. Boldness**

As prophets, we need to be bold without being blunt. Boldness ministers with grace, whereas bluntness ministers without it. Prophets must allow the Lion of Judah within us to roar with the spirit of might, yet not allow our flesh to overrun our emotions so that we minister in unrighteous anger.

Proverbs 28:1 "The righteous are bold as a lion."

#### a. Jesus

- (1) Confronted the Money Changers (Mt. 21:12,13)
- (2) Confronted and Openly Rebuked the Pharisees (Mt. 11:20-24)

#### b. Elijah

Confronted and Executed the 450 prophets of Baal (I Kings 18:20-40)

### **3. Enduring Persecution and Rejection**

The sting of rejection is one of the most difficult things for prophets to overcome. Like Elijah, those who succumb to repeated rejection, can allow a spirit of grief to overtake them to where they withdrawal and resign from ministry.

- a. Jesus was "despised and rejected of men". (Isaiah 53:3, I Peter 2:22,23).
- b. Until his prophecies came true, Micaiah endured much ridicule and was punished under the hands of King Ahab (I Kings 22:1-40).

### **4. Forgiveness**

Walking in forgiveness is an absolute for every Christian, especially prophets. Because of His just nature, the Lord in His mercy will send prophets to a people knowing fully that they will not receive His message.

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part II*

Prophets must learn not to take rejection personally, learning that the recipients are not rejecting them, but the Lord.

a. Jesus Forgave Those Who Killed Him

Luke 23:34 "Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do'."

b. Jeremiah Forgave Those Who Sought to Kill Him (Jeremiah 26:11-16)

Never prophesy out of a bitter, unforgiving heart. Bitterness and unforgiveness should disqualify us from ministering until we deal with the root of bitterness, lest our ministry defile many. (Hebrews 12:15)

### **5. Mercy**

The Lord is much more merciful than we are. When we would have given up on someone years ago, the Lord is very patient and gives people multiple chances to repent. Remember that mercy triumphs over judgment and the goodness of God leads people to repentance.

a. Jeremiah

Jeremiah prophesied the same message of repentance to Judah for 40 years, hoping for their repentance and restoration.

b. Jonah

On the contrary, Jonah grudgingly obeyed the Lord and was disappointed at Ninevah's repentance and the revival that followed. Because Jonah did not demonstrate the heart of the Lord toward the people of Ninevah, he is considered by some to be a false prophet.

*Prepare the Way International emphasizes the importance of the spirit of a prophet. Due to the corrective nature that prophecy can have, it is imperative that prophets possess the Father's compassion for His children.*

## **X. THE ROLE OF THE PROPHET**

A prophet has the role of being God's servant, friend, watchman and intercessor.

### **A. God's Servant**

#### **1. Taking the Form of a Servant**

Matthew 20:27, 28 "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

## *Prophets & Prophetic Ministry Discipleship Training – Part II*

Philippians 2:7 "(Christ Jesus) made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant . . ."

### **2. Prophets Referred to As God's Servants**

No less than 20 times prophets are referred to as God's servants.

Jeremiah 25:4 "And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear."

## ***B. God's Friend***

Although all Christians are to become true friends of God, most are merely acquainted with Him. Unlike Martha, her sister Mary made the transition from being a mere servant of Jesus to being a friend of Jesus (Luke 10:39-42). It is imperative that prophets become friends of God if they are to fulfill their commission (Numbers 12:6-8).

### **1. Moses: A Friend of God**

Exodus 33:11 "So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."

### **2. Knowing God's Ways**

John 15:15 "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

### **3. Covenant Protection**

The shadow of the Almighty serves as a shield against the enemy for prophets who walk intimately and obediently with the Lord.

Psalm 105:15 "Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm."

## ***C. God's Watchman***

### **1. The Secrets of the Lord**

In His covenant mercy, the Lord has chosen to reveal His secrets to prophets, so that the Body of Christ can prepare and intercede effectively.

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Amos 3:7 "Surely the Lord does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."

### **2. Accountability**

Prophets are accountable before God to communicate His messages to the people to whom the prophet has been sent.

Ezekiel 33:8 NIV "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die', and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood."

### **3. Pastors and Prophets**

Through the preaching of repentance, prophets prepare the hearts of God's people to hear and receive the shepherd (pastor) and his message. In this sense, prophets work as a team with pastors to communicate God's word.

John 10:2,3 NIV "The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice."

*Prepare the Way International is committed to working with the local church, building bridges and trust with pastors. Many rifts in the Body of Christ between pastors and prophets have been caused due to inexperienced, untrained or bitter prophets. Prepare the Way International endeavors to gain the confidence and friendship of pastors, so that prophets and pastors together might complement their ministries and complete their missions.*

### **4. Watchmen & GateKeepers**

The Lord entrusts spiritual authority to prophets, as watchmen, to not only announce a coming move of God's Spirit, but to warn the Body and the gatekeepers of a city, region, state or nation regarding demonic onslaught.

GateKeepers are influencers, policy makers and those in authority in the government, church, marketplace, media, educational systems, etc., that determine the destiny of a city, state, or region.

Ezekiel 33:7 NIV "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give warning from Me."

*Prophets called to minister within a particular city or state individually do not possess the authority to confront regional demonic powers. Therefore, they must collaborate with local apostolic and pastoral leaders to*

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*corporately dismantle demonic principalities and establish righteousness.*

### **D. God's Intercessor**

#### **1. Intercessors by Definition**

The ministry of the prophet is characterized by intercession. Prophets that do not intercede most likely are either not prophets or are backslidden.

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."

#### **2. Standing in the Gap**

Prophets serve as intercessors in behalf of people and sin contaminated land.

Ezekiel 22:30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

#### **3. Identificational Repentance**

- a. Identificational repentance means "identifying with and repenting for the sins of another person or group of people."
- b. The Book of Lamentations reveals the grief Jeremiah experienced over the disobedience and judgment of Judah.
- c. Nehemiah provides us with another example of identificational repentance. Repentance, in behalf of his people Israel, enabled Nehemiah to garner the favor of God and the king to bring restoration to the city and people of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 1:3-6 "I wept and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying . . . I said . . . hear the prayer of your servant which I pray before you day and night for the children of Israel . . . and confess the sins of the children of Israel which we have sinned against You. Both my father's house and I have sinned."

- d. Repentance allows the blood of Jesus to be applied over the sins of a people or region, where demonic forces no longer have a legal right to reign.

#### **4. Heavenly Legislation**

Identificational repentance paves the way for heavenly legislation.

a. Executing Judgment

Through prophetic praise and decree, Christians can execute judgment on these satanic forces, to bind them and prevent them from reigning in a region.

Psalm 149:6-9 "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the judgment written. This honor have all His saints."

b. Keys of the Kingdom

The kingdom keys that Christians have been given to close doors to demonic entry and lock out satanic forces also may be used to unlock the windows of heaven and release righteousness in a region.

Matthew 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Isaiah 22:22 "The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; so he shall open, and no one shall shut; and he shall shut, and no one shall open."

## **XI. THE MISSION OF THE PROPHET**

Prophets' multi-faceted mission is to inspire, direct, prosper, purify, restore and unite the Body of Christ.

### ***A. To Inspire Us***

#### **1. To Give You a Future and a Hope**

Prophets are to inspire us to discover, embrace and fulfill our unique divine purpose and calling (II Timothy 1:9).

Jeremiah 29:11 "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."

## **2. Living by Revelation or Resignation**

- a. It is not enough for only the Lord to know His thoughts toward us. We must know God's purpose for our lives if we are going to fulfill our destiny.

Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no revelation (lit. prophetic vision), the people cast off restraint."

- b. Hopelessness is the plague of the masses; a spiritual disease whose symptoms are passivity and mediocrity.
- c. Suicide is the 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of death for 15-23 year olds in America. There are 30,000 suicides per year in America.
- d. Without a prophetic revelation of our calling, there is very little that can restrain us from sin (i.e. drugs, illicit relationships, alcohol, etc.) and resigning from our divine calling.

## **3. Living by Design or Default**

- a. A prophetic word can inspire within us a sense of purpose that brings focus, determination and discipline into our lives. Our lives are then lived by design.
- b. The popularity of the best selling book, "The Purpose Driven Life", by Rick Warren, endorses the notion that people crave to live a meaningful life, full of purpose.
- c. The alternative to living by design is living by default. Several years ago a popular song's lyrics read: "*Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be. The future is not ours to see. Que sera, sera.*"
- d. Without purpose, people live by default, instead of by design. These people take whatever life throws at them, neither grasping nor realizing the potential for significance that God placed within them.

## ***B. To Direct Us***

### **1. The Future is Ours to See**

Although New Testament prophecy's primary function is not foretelling the future, prophets by the Holy Spirit, can provide divine guidance and show us things to come.

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John 16:13 “When the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth . . . and He will tell you things to come.”

The Lord, in His covenant mercy, chooses to do nothing unless He communicates His will to His prophets (Amos 3:7)

### **2. Setting the Mark to Your Divine Destination**

Prophecy sets the mark regarding our purpose and destiny so that we can press toward the mark to obtain the prize of fulfilling our high calling in Christ.

Philippians 3:14 “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

## **C. To Prosper Us**

### **1. Breaking Out Mightily**

The Old Testament word for prosper literally means “to push forward” or “break out mightily”. When we believe in a prophetic word, it will cause us to mightily break out of those things that have hindered us and boldly move forward toward our destiny.

II Chronicles 20:20 “Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper (lit. push forward, break out mightily).”

Due to opposition and indifference, work on restoring the Temple of Jerusalem under Zerubbabel halted after two years. After the temple lay untouched for 14 years, the Lord sent two prophets to inspire the temple’s complete restoration.

Ezra 6:14 “(The elders) prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, the son of Iddo. And they built and finished (the temple), according to the commandment of the God of Israel.”

### **2. Having a Good Journey**

The New Testament word for prosper literally means “to have a good journey”. When we believe, embrace and obey the Lord’s prophetic directives and acknowledge Him in all we do, He will direct our paths and cause us to prosper.

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III John 2 “I wish above all things that you may prosper (lit. have a good journey) and be in health, even as your soul prospers.”

A “good journey” is one in which you reach your intended destination. A prosperous life is one in which we complete God’s intended course and cross the finish line of life fulfilling God’s purpose.

### **D. To Purify Us**

Sin can disqualify us from the prize of attaining the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 28:13 “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.”

#### **1. Preaching Repentance**

One of the primary functions of a prophet is to expose hidden sin in the Church. The Holy Spirit then brings conviction and repentance to perfect holiness in us and create vessels of honor fit for the Master's use.

The prophet's message can be uncomfortable. Like receiving a shot at the doctor, a prophetic message doesn’t always feel good going in, but if we will heed it, it could save our spiritual lives. Prophetic preaching confronts the issues of the heart, generating usually one of three responses.

- a. Joy (Glad)  
Person agrees with the prophetic word.
- b. Godly Sorrow (Sad)  
Person is convicted of sin and is willing to repent.
- c. Anger (Mad)  
Person is convicted on sin but is not willing to repent.

#### **2. Repentance from Dead Works** (Hebrews 6:1)

- a. Dead Work - Any thought, word, action, attitude, habit or practice that does not produce life and is contrary to the perfect will and purpose of God.
- b. Dead works are sin that keep people from perfecting holiness and fellowshiping in the presence of God.

### **3. Types of Sin or Dead Works**

Psalm 24:3,4 "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully."

a. Sins of the Flesh (Clean Hands)

Galatians 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like. . ."

Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eyes & the Pride of Life  
(I John 2:16, James 4:8)

b. Sins of the Heart (Pure Heart)

Matthew 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."

The prophetic anointing exposes and confronts attitudes and spirits of jealousy, pride, fear and grief.

Certain sins of the heart can have far reaching corporate effects. Racism, jealousy, bitterness, prejudice and other heart judgments serve to defile and separate the Body of Christ.

c. Idolatry (I John 5:20-21)

Exodus 20:3-5 "You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God."

Idol - Devotion to any person, place or thing that rightfully belongs to God. We can often identify our idols by where we spend excessive amounts of time and money.

d. Sins of the Tongue (Proverbs 18:21, Isaiah 6:5-8, Matthew 15:18)

Matthew 12:37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Sins of the tongue include murmuring, complaining, lying, false accusation, gossip, manipulative prayers, cursing, and coarse jesting.

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Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

### **4. Repentance Precedes Revival**

In recent years the mission of the prophet has been relegated to signs and wonders and personal prophecy. The missing element of repentance preaching has kept America in a lukewarm state of compromise that has kept revival fires from burning.

Matthew 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Nevertheless, God is raising up a company of John the Baptist type prophets to begin turning the heart of America back to Him.

*Prepare the Way International is seeking to bring a balance to prophetic ministry. Some prophetic ministries only preach repentance and others emphasize personal prophecy and signs and wonders. For instance, John Bevere primarily preaches repentance, whereas Dr. Bill Hamon primarily activates the saints in spiritual gifts. Both aspects of prophetic ministry should be active throughout the Body of Christ.*

## **E. To Restore Us**

Restoration is an important aspect of the prophet's mission that needs to be emphasized in our endeavor to reshape the Body of Christ's paradigm of prophetic ministry.

### **1. Propheying Restoration**

Restoration - A definitive process or action that causes something or someone to return to its original intended form and/or function.

Acts 3:19-21 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send Jesus Christ, Who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of His holy prophets since the world began."

<u>Times of Repentance</u>	→ Kingdom Entrance
<u>Times of Restoration</u>	→ Kingdom Establishment
<u>Times of Refreshing (Revival)</u>	→ Kingdom Empowerment
<u>Times of Revolution</u>	→ Kingdom Emergence
<u>Times of Reformation</u>	→ Kingdom Expansion

## **2. Restoring Broken Dreams**

In a real cruel world, where divine dreams are slain daily, the Lord is raising up prophets to restore broken dreams. Prophets become “dream savers” in a world full of “dream slayers”.

Prophets must not only identify and root out sin, but also build hope and plant destiny in the hearts of God's people.

Jeremiah 1;10 "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."

## **3. Restoring Health**

Physical restoration sometimes comes from the command of a prophet.

Jeremiah 30:17 "For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds, says the Lord."

Psalms 107:20 He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

a. Naaman was healed when he obeyed the prophet Elisha.

II Kings 5:14 "So he (Naaman) went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

b. Jesus Healed Through the Prophetic Command

(1) Man with the Withered Hand (Matthew 12:13)

(2) Healing the Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

## **4. Restoring Wasted Years**

Joel 2:25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten."

a. Despite years of inactivity and unfruitfulness, if we will hold fast to the personal promises of God through His prophets, we will through faith and patience inherit them (Hebrews 6:12).

b. Although we have missed the mark at different times of our lives, if we will not give up and simply trust God, He will provide us an alternate path to fulfill our ultimate destination.

## **5. Restoring Cities and Nations**

Church leaders must realize that their scope of influence and accountability reaches beyond the walls of their individual churches. The Lord will collectively hold leaders responsible for the spiritual condition of their community (Revelation 2, 3).

### a. Restoring Vision (Habakkuk 2:2,3)

- (1) Discovering Destinies - Some prophets are called to rediscover God's redemptive purpose for cities and uncover Satan's plan of perverting that purpose. These prophets then collaborate with local pastors and intercessors to overcome demonic influence and fulfill divine destiny for the church in that particular city.
- (2) Apostolic/Prophetic Teams - God desires to team up prophets with apostles, who are oftentimes pastors with a vision for city reaching. These apostles, like Nehemiah, have a burden for church unity, evangelism and the restoration of their city's spiritual gates.

### b. Discerning the Enemy at the Gate

The spiritual strongholds over our cities must be prayerfully determined, after which God's plan of deliverance is spearheaded by the apostles and prophets.

### c. Repentance Yields Restoration

Repentance for the sins of a city or nation, led by the apostles and prophets, loosen the grip the accuser has upon it. When the blood of Jesus is applied to these sins, the casting down of principalities and the rebuilding process can begin. (Nehemiah 1:3-6, Ezekiel 22:30)

Isaiah 58:12 "Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In."

### d. Waging War at the Gate

#### (1) Sounding the Trumpet

The prophet (trumpeter) helps the apostle (Nehemiah) rebuild the spiritual gates of the city, identifying satanic attacks and warning the Body.

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Nehemiah 4:18 "Every one of the builders had his sword girded at his side as he built. And the one who sounded the trumpet was beside me."

### (2) Binding and Loosing

Once sin is repented for and demonic powers have been identified, intercessors can bind these satanic strongholds and loose the righteousness and blessing of God through prophetic decree.

## **F. To Unite Us**

Unifying the Body of Christ is one of the most important aspects of the mission of the prophet.

### **1. Restoring All Things**

John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah to unite people with God through a message of repentance. This work of unity spearheaded the restoration of all things.

Matthew 17:11 "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Elijah truly is coming first and will restore all things.'"

Today, prophets, as ministers of reconciliation, are being commissioned to bring restoration to our relationship with God and with one another. The unity that results will initiate restoration in all other areas of the kingdom.

### **2. The Ultimate Curse**

The ultimate curse is to be forever separated from God in a Christless hell. According to the Old Testament, unless prophets through the preaching of repentance unite the hearts of God's people to walk as one with the Father and with one another, the world will suffer under this ultimate curse.

Malachi 4:5-6 "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their father, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

### **3. That the World May Believe**

According to Jesus, the only way the world is going to believe in Him as if Christians, His representatives, walk in unity as one. In these last days, the Lord is raising up a company of prophets to unite the Body of Christ through repentance so that the world will believe in Jesus.

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John 17:21 “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

### **4. Unity of the Spirit and Faith**

Corporate sins such as racism, prejudice, denominational pride, and legalism inhibit the unifying, perfecting and purifying work of the Spirit in presenting a holy, spotless Bride (the Church) to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the world.

Ephesians 4:1,3,13 " . . . walk worthy of the calling with which you were called . . . endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace . . . till we all come to the unity of the faith “

Prophets are to unite the Body of Christ, by challenging us to repent of these corporate sins that separate us. Once the Body is walking in unity, the world will believe in Jesus and the Lord’s commanded blessing of “life forevermore” (i.e. salvation) will be poured out on the world.

Psalm 133:1, 3 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! . . . For there the Lord commanded the blessing – life forevermore.

## **XII. PROPHETIC PITFALLS, FALSE PROPHETS & PSYCHICS**

### **A. Seven Common Pitfalls for Prophets**

#### **1. Pitfall #1 – PITY**

##### **a. The Elijah Syndrome ~ I Kings 19:1-18**

The “Elijah Syndrome” is a spiritual disease, where prophets isolate themselves usually due to pride, insecurity or incompatibility, and fall into the traps of self-pity, grief and resignation.

Elijah in fear for his life, fled from Jezebel, and prayed that the Lord would take his life. He isolated himself and resigned to a cave and deceived himself in thinking that he was the Lord’s only prophet. Succumbing to grief and a ***spirit of heaviness***, Elijah forfeited the fulfillment of his high calling.

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### b. Proverbial Prescription for Pity ~ Proverbs 18:1

Proverbs 18:1 “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire. He rages against all wise judgment.”

Instead of becoming a “lone ranger”, prophets should join a local or regional company of prophets who can provide encouragement and counsel in times of need (Proverbs 24:6).

## **2. Pitfall #2 – PRIDE**

### a. Simon the Sorcerer ~ Acts 8:9

Acts 8:9 “But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming he was someone GREAT.”

Some prophets isolate themselves because they think they are better or greater than other prophets. Succumbing to pride and a **haughty spirit**, these prophets will find God resisting them and eventually fall.

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

### b. Proverbial Prescription for Pride ~ Proverbs 3:34

Proverbs 3:34 “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Humbling oneself under that mighty hand of God will not only secure God’s grace, but bring promotion in His kingdom in His time.

Matthew 18:4 “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the GREATEST in the kingdom of heaven.”

I Peter 5:5,6 “Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for ‘God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.’ Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

## **3. Pitfall #3 – PRESTIGE**

### a. Simon the Sorcerer ~ Acts 8:10

Acts 8:10 “To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God.’”

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Prophets seeking fame will in the end only find shame. Prophets, who love recognition or social standing, fear or honor man instead of God. These prophets can entertain a ***spirit of whoredoms (harlotry)*** that eventually dominates their relationships, leading to covenant breaking, where one sells out true friends to serve fame.

Matthew 23:6 “They (Pharisees) love the place of honor at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues.”

John 12:42-43 “Among the rulers many believed in Him (Jesus), but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

- b. Proverbial Prescription for Prestige ~ Proverbs 25:27b & 27:2

Proverbs 25:27b “So to seek one’s own glory is not glory.”

Proverbs 27:2 “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth.”

Seeking fame and glory for oneself will only bring shame. We should only seek to lift up and glorify the name and person of Jesus, that all men would be drawn to and saved by Him.

### **4. Pitfall #4 – POLITICS**

- a. Simon the Sorcerer ~ Acts 8:18-20

Acts 8:18 "Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money"

Acts 8:20 “But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money.”

Politicians attempt to manipulate others through money, insincere compliments, or unsolicited favors to gain advantage, favor, or influence.

The leaven of the Pharisees contaminates the Body through the religious spirit. Similarly, the leaven of Herod infiltrates the Body through the political spirit.

Luke 6:26 “Woe to you when all men speak well of you.”

Although we are to be on peaceable terms with all men, we are foolish if we think we can be friends with everyone or have everyone like us or approve of us (Romans 12:18).

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Romans 8:15 “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”

The politician is subject to a ***spirit of bondage*** to the fear of man’s rejection. Politicians may even forfeit true covenant relationships with less influential people to pursue cordial relationships with those with a wider or higher platform.

- b. Proverbial Prescription for Politics ~ Proverbs 29:25 & 18:16

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare.”

Proverbs 18:16 “A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.”

The fear of the Lord replaces the fear of man and delivers one from public opinion, where one only seeks to please God. Instead of attempting to manipulate people to gain the favor of influential people, prophets must believe that their gift will make room for them on the platforms that God provides.

### **5. Pitfall #5 – POWER**

- a. Simon the Sorcerer ~ Acts 8:19

Acts 8:19 “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

Simon was obsessed with a supernatural power that would bring him fame, and was jealous of Peter and John’s gifting.

Simon’s jealousy and bitter heart defiled and disqualified him from operating under the true anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:21-23 “You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

These insecure, bitter prophets are subject to a ***spirit of jealousy*** and may succumb to a ***spirit of divination*** where they turn to familiar spirits to operate in the supernatural.

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### b. Proverbial Prescription for Power ~ Proverbs 17:17

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times.”

I Corinthians 14:1 “Pursue love and earnestly covet spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

I Corinthians 14:12 “Since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”

Prophets desiring “the power” at any cost will open themselves up to the operation of familiar spirits. However, if we always pursue the fruit of love and have compassion for people first, we will never be in danger of selling out to Satan and the operation of familiar spirits.

## **6. Pitfall #6 – PROFIT**

### a. Slave Girl Possessed with a Spirit of Divination ~ Acts 16:16-19

Acts 16:16 “who brought her masters much profit through fortune telling.”

Acts 16:19 “But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.”

I Timothy 6:9-10 “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Jude 1:11 The Error of Balaam “. . . have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit...”

Prophets who love money are subject to a ***spirit of greed***. They misuse their spiritual gifts to extort money from gullible Christians, but in the end will reap destruction and sorrow.

### b. Proverbial Prescription for Profit ~ Proverbs 1:19; 11:28

Proverbs 1:19 “So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; it takes away the life of its owners.”

Proverbs 11:28 “He who trusts in his riches will fall.”

## **7. Pitfall #7 – PORNOGRAPHY**

### a. Jesus' Teaching on Adultery ~ Matthew 5:27-29

Matthew 5:27-29 “You have heard that it was said to those of old. You shall not commit adultery. But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. And if your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Matthew 6:22-24 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good (lit. clear, healthy), your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad (lit. evil or unhealthy) your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

The lust of the eyes has discredited, disabled and disqualified many preachers in America. Instead of receiving the light of the knowledge of the glory in the face of Jesus, the eyes of many prophets' understanding have been darkened through pornography. Having succumb to ***unclean and perverse spirits***, some prophets are led into fornication and adultery.

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach . . . recovery of sight to the blind.”

Instead of preaching recovery of sight to the blind, we have blind preachers leading blind people down a path to destruction.

### b. Proverbial Prescription for Pornography ~ Proverbs 6:32

Proverbs 6:32 “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.”

## **B. Divination – Old Age and New Age**

### **1. What are some examples of old age psychics?**

Diviners, Witches, Sorcerers, Soothsayers, Mediums, Fortune-tellers, Palm Readers, Tarot Card Readers, Witch Doctors

### **2. What are some examples of modern day psychics?**

John Edward's “Crossing Over” & Chris Angel “Mind Freak”

### **C. Prophecy vs. Psychic Readings**

#### **1. Is getting a reading from a psychic an OK thing to do?**

No. Psychics operate under the influence of either a spirit of divination or a familiar spirit.

Familiar spirits are demons that are familiar with us and those around us. They then communicate to the psychic things that have happened to us and our families in the past. This is how Jon Edwards operates.

A spirit of divination communicates things about what people have done, and what they may do in the future, based on their past. They also can communicate what is going on in the present supernaturally. It is supernatural, but demonic. Chris Angel “Mind Freak” operates under the influence of many demons.

Divination is Satan’s counterfeit for prophecy.

#### **2. What inspires a prophetic word vs. a psychic reading?**

- A true prophetic word is inspired by the Holy Spirit.
- A false prophetic word is inspired by a spirit of divination, familiar spirits, or a bitter heart.
- Inaccurate or presumptuous prophecies are innocent errors in hearing God correctly.

#### **3. Can there be negative effects from receiving a psychic reading or having your palm read?**

Yes. Participating in a communication with demons brings defilement.

Leviticus 19:31 "Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God."

Defile : “to make unclean or impure, to corrupt the purity or perfection of; to violate the sanctity of; desecrate, dishonor or contaminate.”

Divination keeps God's people in a defiled state where intimate fellowship with God is most difficult.

The judgment for divination in the Old Testament was so severe because of the defilement it brought to God’s people. In the Old Testament, the Lord

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instructed that all mediums be put to death (Leviticus 20:6, 27, Deuteronomy 18:10-12, I Chronicles 10:13-14).

Leviticus 20:27 "A man or woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death."

If you have participated in a psychic reading, had your palm read or follow horoscopes, simply repent and ask the Lord to cleanse you of any bad effects resulting from those experiences.

### ***D. True Prophets and False Prophets***

#### **1. What motivates a true prophet and a false prophet?**

- A true prophet is motivated by selfless love for people.
- False prophets are arrogantly motivated to selfishly gain prestige, power or profit.

#### **2. What detrimental effects do false prophets have on Christians?**

False prophets give people a false sense of security when in reality God is calling for repentance (Jeremiah 14:14; 23:16, 17).

Jeremiah 23:21-22 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings."

Divination deters repentance by deceiving people regarding their sin.

### ***E. Divination in the Church***

#### **1. How can I recognize a true prophet from a false prophet?**

Jesus indicated that a prophet's fruit determined if he was false or not. A prophet with a shepherd's heart produced good fruit and a hireling abused God's sheep, producing rotten fruit.

Matthew 7, 15-16 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits."

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Matthew 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things."

### **2. Can bitterness defile a prophet, his prophecies and the church?**

Accurate prophecy delivered out of a heart of bitterness, due to jealousy or an unforgiven offense is a form of divination. The attitude of the heart must reflect God's heart or the prophecy will bring defilement and division in the Church.

A prophetic word of repentance, when delivered out of a bitter or wounded heart, can cause resentment and rebellion towards the Lord instead of repentance.

Matthew 15:18-20 "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man."

## ***F. Prophetic Ministry and the New Age Movement***

Some well meaning prophetic ministries today have their roots in the New Age.

### **1. Can I initiate my own spiritual journey to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven?**

Our culture's growing hunger for the supernatural has caused some ministries to draw followers by promoting self-initiated spiritual journeys to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven.

### **2. Is my imagination a legitimate vehicle for a divine spiritual experience or encounter?**

- a. These so-called spiritual journeys to heaven are initiated by human will and imagination, and sometimes boast encounters with deceased people.
- b. The dictionary defines imagination as "lacking factual reality", a "creation of the mind", a "fanciful or empty assumption".
- c. According to scripture, we are to "cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:5)
- d. All true spiritual 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven experiences are initiated and led by the Holy Spirit, not human will or imagination.

**3. Are some so-called “prophetic activations” really “psychic activations?”**

- a. So-called “prophetic activations” are sometimes characterized by asking the Holy Spirit to give a prophetic word inspired by a random object. Other activations include attempting to guess someone’s name or favorite color. These methods are forms of divination and should be avoided.
- b. Although we are to earnestly covet spiritual gifts and set our minds on Christ and His heavenly kingdom, the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts and grants 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven experiences “as He wills”, not as we will. (I Corinthians 12:11, 14:1, Colossians 3:1-2)

*A large portion of the Body of Christ today does not believe in modern day prophets. Part of Prepare the Way International’s mission is to take the mystery and controversy out of prophetic ministry so that the Body of Christ on a larger scale can believe in, embrace, and benefit from it.*

### **XIII. PROPHETIC ACTIVATION**

You will be given an opportunity in this module to freely exercise by faith the prophetic gifting that is within you. This is an informal time, intended to encourage you to step out in the prophetic. Relax, have fun and be a blessing!

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

I Corinthians 14:31 "For you can ALL prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged."

1. You will be placed in a group with around five to seven people. One person at a time will be ministered to within the group. Two or more of the other members of the group will minister to that person.
  - a. These words will not be tape recorded since this exercise is intended for training purposes only.
  - b. Feel free to take notes or record these words with your own personal recorder.
2. While ministering, simply ask the Holy Spirit to give you a word from Him to bless that person.
  - a. You do not have to minister to each person in your group, but you should attempt to bless at least two people in your group during the activation.
  - b. Don't succumb to the temptation to withdrawal out of fear during this activation. Don't freeze up! Relax, you are among friends!
3. You may simply have a word of encouragement, or a scripture for someone. Some people begin to have visions or detailed words for people.
  - a. Even if you have a strong impression, please refrain from giving any corrective or directive words during the activation.
  - b. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of the ministers that will be assisting with the activation.
4. Ensure that each person in your group has an opportunity to minister and to receive ministry. If you have a strong gift of prophecy, please do not dominate the activation, but instead encourage others in the group to step out in faith.
5. Limit your ministry time to each person to 5 minutes. Total time for this activation should be approximately 30 minutes.

#### **XIV. RECOMMENDED READING**

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Damazio, Frank, Developing the Prophetic Ministry, Portland: Trilogy Productions, Inc., 1983.

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Goll, Jim W., The Seer, Shippensburg: Destiny Image Publishers, Inc., 2004.

Hamon, Dr. Bill, Prophets and Personal Prophecy, Volume 1, Shippensburg: Destiny Image, 1987.

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Hanson, Ted, J., The New Testament Prophet, Bellingham: House of Bread Publishing, 1996.

Jacobs, Cindy, The Voice of God, Ventura: Regal Books, 1995.

Joyner, Rick, The Prophetic Ministry, Charlotte: Morningstar Publications, 1997.

Price, Paula A., The Prophet's Dictionary, Flaming Vision Publications, 2002.

Randolph, Larry, User Friendly Prophecy, Century City: Cherith Publications, 1995.

Sanford, John and Paula, The Elijah Task, Plainfield: Logos International, 1977.

Schultz, D. Steven, Restoration of the Modern Day Prophet, Santa Rosa Beach: Steve and Eileen Schultz, 1990.

Thompson, Steve, You May All Prophecy, Charlotte: Morningstar Publications & Ministries, 2000.



# ***Prepare the Way International***

## **Personal Prophetic Ministry Feedback Form**

Before receiving prophetic ministry or completing and submitting this form, please read the reverse of this form, which contains information regarding personal prophecy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Prophetic Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Prophetic Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rate the following on a scale from 1 to 10, or enter N/A for not applicable.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPIRIT:** Was your team unfriendly and harsh (1) or friendly and compassionate (10) ?

\_\_\_\_\_ **EFFECT:** Were you discouraged and agitated by your prophetic word (1) or edified, exhorted and comforted (10) by your prophetic word?

\_\_\_\_\_ **ACCURACY:** Was the prophetic word you received inaccurate (1) or accurate (10) about past or current events and conditions in your life?

\_\_\_\_\_ **VISION:** Did you not bear witness to (1) or bear witness to (10) the prophetic word you received about future aspirations, goals, your spiritual gifting, or God's calling on your life?

\_\_\_\_\_ **TEAMWORK:** If a team ministered to you, did the members of the team contradict (1) or complement (10) one another?

\_\_\_\_\_ **OVERALL:** Overall, was the prophetic ministry you received negative and disappointing (1) or positive and rewarding (10)?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and submit it after you have received your personal prophetic ministry. Please e-mail us if you would like to discuss further the prophetic ministry you received. Your feedback is important to us. Thank you!

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# ***Prepare the Way International***

## **Personal Prophecy Guidelines**

Please keep the following in mind regarding the personal prophetic ministry you will be receiving or have received today:

### **Fallibility**

Unlike scripture, personal prophetic words are subject to error, due to the human condition. Although we are striving for 100% accuracy, the words we receive are often in part (I Corinthians 13: 9,12).

### **Complexity**

There are usually three dimensions to most prophetic insights.

1. Revelation – The dream, vision, sign or word from the Lord.
2. Interpretation – The meaning of the dream, vision or sign.
3. Application – The correct action or response to the word.

If any one of these three dimensions is mishandled, a degree of inaccuracy is introduced.

### **The Fourth Dimension**

Time, the fourth dimension, is one variable that can often be mishandled. A prophetic minister may assume that an event is about to take place in a person's life, but it has already occurred. On the other hand, the prophetic minister may feel that an event has already happened, but it will happen in the future.

## **Fulfilling Your Personal Prophecy**

**Attitude** – Maintain the right attitudes of faith, obedience, patience, humility and submission towards your word. (I Thess. 5:20 “Do not despise prophecies.”)

**Meditation** – Record, read, and meditate upon the prophetic word you have received.

**Discernment** – Bear witness to the prophecy. Your spirit may agree with the word, even if your mind does not. (I Thess. 5:21 “Test all things; hold fast what is good.”)

**Warfare** – Prophetic words and our divine destiny are not fulfilled without our consent and cooperation. (I Timothy 4:14, II Timothy 1:6)

**Direction** – Do nothing different unless definitely directed.

**Authority** – We encourage you to share your word with your spiritual covering (i.e. pastor). Please call us with any questions, comments or concerns.

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