

A presence centered church will have a prophetic culture because God is in the midst.

Deuteronomy 10:8 (NKJV) At that time the Lord separated the tribe of Levi to **bear the ark** of the covenant of the Lord, to **stand** before the Lord to minister to Him and to **bless** in His name, to this day.

The new covenant priest has a twofold ministry:

1. They minister to God
2. They minister to people through the Spirit—especially by the gift of prophecy given to all believers

Prophecy fits beautifully into priesthood as we bring the revelation of Jesus heart to one another. The priest ministers to God in worship and intercession, and ministers to people by hearing and speaking the word of the Lord through the Spirit.

Revelation received from God and communicated to another person can be considered prophecy. We Hear His voice, align with His word, we speak.

1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV) Pursue love, and desire spiritual [gifts,] but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:3-4 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies **edifies** the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be **edified**.

Revelation 19:10b-For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

The spirit of prophecy must be rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus Christ through you and I. We must be careful not to come up short and leave Jesus out of the equation. **You are testifying of the heart of Jesus to**

others. You are declaring the life giving word through personally knowing how God feels/loves you.

A great question to ask Holy Spirit and ourselves when desiring to speak into another's life in Jesus Name is how does this edify them and how does it point to Jesus Christ! Every spiritual gift (Charisma) and every spiritual fruit (character) will grow and mature only as we walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

- There are longings on every humans heart to know the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit in greater measure. When we share Scripture, words, impressions, pictures, dreams that Holy Spirit has shared with us we become the vessel Holy Spirit uses to bring revelation of Jesus. **Those words have the power to release seed that can grow as well as power to unlock a heart. Remember faith comes by hearing. (Rom. 10:17).**

Specific areas that that Jesus has personally touched us carry a special anointing for others. God wants to use you to minister in the power of His Holy Spirit and a major way He will do this is by using those areas where you have personally been touched by Jesus. (identity, breakthrough, forgiveness etc) Your testimony concerning Jesus in your own life prophesies in power. We **Don't just speak His mind, we speak His heart. In other words not just what He says but how.**

Acts 2:37 (NKJV) Now when they **heard** [this,] they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men [and] brethren, what shall we do?"

Cut=agitate violently, pricked, pierced thoroughly

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NKJV) 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 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.

The purpose of the manifestations/gifts are for the purpose of edification.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV) But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit [of all:]

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NKJV) How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

The word edification = (to build a house, erect a building to build up from the foundation, to restore, establish, to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness. This is a Construction term (Paul called himself a master builder, 1 Cor. 3:10). We are building Jesus a dwelling place. His name is on the foundation not yours!

It is important as we move forward that we keep the three attributes of New Testament personal prophecy at the forefront.

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV) But he who prophesies speaks **edification** and **exhortation** and **comfort** to men.

Three primary purposes that are checks and balances:

Prophecy overcomes two of Satan's most common attacks: condemnation and discouragement The Holy Spirit is the comforter (exhorter) of God's people. He never discourages or condemns. **Prophecy has been called "the poetry of the Holy Spirit."**

A New Testament scholar said these words "Encouragement is one of the most important ministries in the church of the New Testament." Our biblical authenticity is at stake here — whether we are over-flowing in encouragement to one another.

Encouragement is one of the primary purposes of the prophetic in the New Testament which Paul refers to as the superior gift in 1 Cor. 14.

Have you ever truly considered how important Godly encouragement is? The New Testament is filled with the exhortation to bring encouragement to other believers. **Encouragement is purposed to release you into destiny through hearing how God feels about you.** Jesus revealed that our Father is emotionally impacted

and moved by us and we need to hear His encouragement through one another's mouths.

When we give messages from our Father to someone else we need to deliver the word in such a way that it **strengthens (build them up), it exhorts (strongly encourages, stimulates growth in Christ) or it brings comfort (speaks hopeful truth)** even when it is a more difficult word. Don't speak where people are stuck, speak to their freedom in Christ. Lay out clearly, hope in Christ. (Sin, character issues etc)

When someone gives us something they received from the Lord we should ask the same questions. Did it strengthen, encourages and brings comfort and is grounded in the word of God and confirmed by the Holy Spirit within then we should receive it **and do something with it.**

An amazing safeguard that God has given His children is His written word. If someone brings you something that goes against what God has said in His word then we need to have the spiritual wisdom to throw it out. It may however be different than your experience or tradition and still be the Lord. **Too** often we can throw something out because it doesn't align with our experience but it may very well line up to His word. Another safeguard is you don't have to receive what someone else speaks if it does not resonate in your heart. **1Thess. 5:20-21** **20**Do not despise prophecies. **21**Test all things; hold fast what is good.

If it truly is from God then it is alive and active and has the power within to change a life, *Gods word have creative power. He speaks and dead things come to life. He releases seed where it was not. The active ingredient every recipient must have is faith/belief.*

1Thessalonians 2:13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.) **The word of God is able to work in individual when it is accepted and believed.**

We must be in fellowship with the Holy Spirit as we minister to others. Fellowship was meant to grow and mature. We are all invited into the depths of Jesus intimacy. The goal is not so that they will remember the encounter they had with you (That will fade) but that His love, His Presence, His power and what He imparts will remain.

Each prophetic word has Three different components.

1. **Revelation**- The information we receive from God. God can and will give you info that you currently don't possess. Spirit of wisdom and revelation is something we cannot live without. Highlighted scripture, impressions, thoughts, visions, dreams etc
2. **Interpretation**- This is the understanding we have about the information given. Most of the time it is partial
3. **Application**-How we apply. What do I do with this. Many times this is not our job, it is the responsibility of the person receiving.

Just as Holy Spirit has **illuminating power to highlight as we read the Bible, he can and will illuminate what to say to an individual.**

As followers-of Jesus we should all as Paul commands eagerly desire to prophecy in order to build up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV) Pursue love, and desire spiritual [gifts,] but especially that you may prophesy.

Ask God for this gift to continually grow in you . Practice this week. Simply ask Holy Spirit each morning, each meeting, around family, work etc. "is there anything you want to speak through me? -Such a beautiful way to reveal Gods love-and show others the Fathers heart for them.

Listen in prayer, write down, put it in your phone, listen for names, pictures etc. respond quickly when you receives something from Holy Spirit unless He tells you not to. We all need edified and this is a one on one ministry that any follower of Jesus has access to. This is a relational gift in which any of us could be used at any time.

Godly encouragement is required in order for people to truly experience Jesus Christ.

- **His church is not just people doing the right thing but a people directly connected to the person of Jesus through the Holy Spirit *who feel deeply and are are emotionally bonded to the mission and person of Jesus Christ.*** We are meant to break off discouragement and be used by the Holy Spirit to encourage one another.
 1. Come prepared
 2. Look for opportunity
 3. Take risks.

Communion- **Hebrews 12:24 (NKJV) to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than [that of] Abel.**

Jesus blood **speaks** a better word

Home groups

1. Discuss the power of prophetic encouragement
 2. Discuss the differences of “being nice” and operating in the prophetic.
 3. How much time do you spend on a weekly basis asking Jesus for His heart for others and then sharing it?
 4. What are some prophetic words that others have given that you are still applying faith to and believing for?
 5. Discuss- **Prophecy overcomes two of Satan’s most common attacks: condemnation and discouragement** The Holy Spirit is the comforter (exhorter) of God’s people. He never discourages or condemns.
- Make sure you make room for people to share prophetically with one another. This should become a part of your home group rhythm.