



Prophetic Training: Session 3

Putting Apostolic Feet to Prophetic Hope *Three Main Components...continued*

VIDEO: Bourne (born) Identity: ***"Why would I know that?"***

2. Interpretation:

This is the understanding that God gives about the revelation we have received. It reveals what God is saying or what He means. This is usually the hardest part of the three basic components and where people struggle the most. The key here is to "keep it simple" and develop a language with God that He can often refer to when speaking with you. He is the God of Mysteries, but He is not the God of confusion.

Interpretation: to translate, to solve, finding the explanation

Hidden Speech and Dark Sayings

Read:

Proverbs 25:2

***It is the glory of God to conceal a matter,
But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.***

Num 12:6-8

"Now hear My words:

***If there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, will make Myself known to him in a vision.
I will speak with him in a dream.
It is not this way for My servant Moses;
He is faithful in all My household;
With him, I speak mouth to mouth [face to face],
That is, openly, and not using mysterious language,
And he beholds the form of the Lord.
So why were you not afraid
To speak against My servant, against Moses?"***

Matt 13:34-35

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak anything to them without a parable. This was so that what was spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

"I will open My mouth in parables; I will proclaim things hidden since the foundation of the world."

Ps 49:4

***I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will express my riddle on the harp.***

Prov 1:5-6

***A wise person will hear and increase in learning,
And a person of understanding will acquire wise counsel,
To understand a proverb and a saying,
The words of the wise and their riddles.***

In Biblical history, riddles were a common way to release revelation. Riddles became a delight mostly because the interpretation was not so much found in the meaning but in the mystery. Solving a riddle didn't just reveal the meaning, it revealed the brilliance and the heart of the solver. It was understood that heaven's riddles could not be solved without possessing heavenly wisdom.

Discernment and the Prophetic

Discernment can happen in various ways; FEELING, KNOWING, SEEING, SENSING, or HEARING. You may walk into a room and feel or sense that something is off or just not right in the atmosphere. You may walk up to someone and sense that they are having a rough day, a hard season of their life, or that they are bound or being demonically oppressed. Or, you may drive into a region and become increasingly aware of the oppression that resides within that region.

Q. Is my discernment the same as a Prophetic Word?

A. No

Your discernment is the conversation starter. It makes you aware of the spiritual temperature in the atmosphere, but it is more like a thermometer than a thermostat. A thermometer lets you know what the current temperature is, but a thermostat actually gives you the ability to change the temperature and affect the atmosphere. Likewise, the gift of Prophecy kicks in when God shows you His answer to what you have discerned. Many people use their discernment as a word of knowledge, but most often "discernment" is used to point out areas of need, and "prophecy" is used to change the spiritual temperature and bring heaven's atmosphere into any situation.

Discernment and the Gift of Suspicion

If we just operate out of the gift of "Discernment" and do not go further to hear and release what God is saying (prophecy), we can begin to create a gift that just points out what is not happening. Discernment can lead to "Suspicion" if we don't learn to manage our discernment and bring it into subjection to the reality of the Word of God. We want to create a habit of asking ourselves, while we are discerning something good or bad, "What is God saying about this..." or "What truth is needed to change this

atmosphere...?" In short, "discernment" reads the atmosphere, and "Prophecy" changes and sets the atmosphere. We need both to function healthily in the Prophetic.

Quick Check Guide:

We can prophesy out of our theology and belief systems. We have to learn to set aside our theology when it comes to interpretations of revelation. You can tell when someone is filtering their word through their theology (end times, intercession, healing, evangelism, etc).

- Check your heart first to remove any hindrances, prejudices, or judgments regarding their appearance or who they might be.
- Watch for personal opinions and avoid assuming that you know what God is saying.
- Don't allow your heart to become jealous, bitter, or offended by the word or by the person receiving the word (e.g. "Why are they getting this word, I want or deserve this word more than they do...").
- Check to see if personal sin or compromise is bringing mixture to the interpretation of the word (e.g. if you are struggling in an area that God is trying to either bring conviction to or reward for overcoming to the person you are ministering to, you may tend to dull down the severity of the conviction or the blessing because of your own struggle and need to justify.
- Avoid being lazy too tired or inconvenienced to search for God's gold.

What does Interpretation look like?

- Find the Big Picture: Take time to observe the whole revelation before making your conclusions. Be aware of thoughts, emotions, or memories that occur when you first see the person or hear a dream.
- Scale Down: What is God highlighting the most?
- Simplify: Find the simple meaning and don't overcomplicate the revelation. **"Where too many words are, sin is present"** (see Prov 10:19).
- What details stand out: Don't try to interpret the things that don't stand out to you. What is God saying about the details that are being highlighted?
- Use your own prophetic language: There is a reason that you are prophesying over them or interpreting their dream and not someone else.
- Use personal Symbols: "This reminds me of..."
- What emotion is God displaying in the revelation? If you can discern the difference between your personal emotions and the emotions that God is sharing with you, this can be a great tool in deciphering how God feels about the revelation (i.e. Lion or a Lamb).
- Use scripture to define the concept that God is presenting.
- SEERS: because you see literally, it is a common mistake to assume that the interpretation is also literal. Example: During prayer, Bob Jones sees a black panther walking around the lumber yard in Charlotte. They started praying that people in the area would be safe from any vicious attacks from this animal, etc. It turns out that the next year a new NFL Football team came to Charlotte and was called "The Carolina Panthers". They chose to build their stadium over the old lumber yard in Charlotte.

- In a team setting, watch for the details that other team members are getting and how what you are picking up on flows with your team.

Enquire:

Dialogue with the Holy Spirit and give God room to reveal what He is doing.
Ask God how He wants you to see and understand this revelation (e.g. "God, what does this mean...").

In A Team:

1 Corinthians 13:9

"For we know in part and we prophesy in part"

Interpretation is supposed to be fun, like a treasure hunt. So become like a King and ask the Holy Spirit to help you search out the matter and help you, make a conclusion. Let God give you progressive pieces as you press into Him and work with your team.

3. Application:

This is the utilization of wisdom and understanding, in order, to practically implement what has been prophesied. Simply, it is what you do with the word!

How do I communicate the word?

Don't get lost in the communication of the revelation and how you received it (e.g. "I saw three rainbows coming towards you..."). After taking a moment to compile what God is saying, go beyond just sharing revelation to sharing the interpretation (e.g. "I believe God is bringing you into a season of fulfilled promises...").

Addresses: you may be picking up on someone or something in their home.

Dates: an anniversary date can reveal that God is doing something in their marriage, or the reason they were born if you get their birthdate.

Principles for applying **HEALTHY** biblical prophecy:

- Edify / Encourage / Comfort: 1 Corinthians 14:3
- Level of Authority: Know your level of authority in the person's life (see 2 Cor 10:13-17). Never use the prophetic ministry or your gift to take authority in a person's life or draw them to yourself as a spiritual son or daughter. Your words to them should never be the catalyst to change your relationship with them. True relationships are founded on mutual trust and love, not gifting. You are just submitting your word for their consideration.

- Level of Revelation: Share the word on the same level of revelation as how you received it (e.g. "I saw, I felt, I heard". Don't say "God told me or God says..." If He didn't say).
- Level of Understanding: Share only what you know and don't feel pressured or tempted to exaggerate to imply that you know more.
- Don't share any directive or corrective words unless the person has specifically asked you to have that role in their life.
- Do not feel the need to be overly spiritual or overly loud. It doesn't necessarily make the word any more powerful.
- Try to share the word in a way that the person can understand and use relevant terms instead of Christian-eeze.
- Give the word in FAITH trusting that the Holy Spirit can do His work far beyond what you can understand.
- Don't pray the prophetic word over them, declare it over them.
- If you are on a team, share your part and trust the team leader for possible application. Don't be afraid to pass your team leader a note saying "Not sure how it applies". They will take it from there.
- Avoid mixing the word of prophecy with personal counseling. If you have a word of wisdom that pertains to the prophecy, separate the two by sharing the prophecy first. This will usually help with clarity as well.
- Ask the Lord if He wants you to accompany the word with an action (prophetic act or declarative prayer, etc).

What do I do with negative revelation?

"For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please".

Galatians 5:17

Speaking In the Opposite Spirit:

Opposition: (*lit = going in opposite directions*).

- If you see or feel that someone is bound by or struggling with fleshly impurity, then according to this verse, the Spirit wants to take them in the opposite direction; *purity*. It would almost take no discernment to point out their struggle, but the deeper discernment in this case would be to reveal where God wants to take them and prophesy who He says they are, even in their struggle. Speak in the opposite Spirit!!! Jesus said "My words are Spirit..." We are to connect them to the way the Spirit is going.
- If you stand next to someone and suddenly begin to have a sinful urge or begin to think thoughts that you know are not coming from you, if God leads you, speak in the opposite spirit and declare the truth that is opposite of the lie that is causing the person to stay in or carry that atmosphere. "Speaking to things that are not as though they were..." This is our moment to Co-Create with God.

Checks & Balances:

Accountability: Team Concept

- If you are wondering or concerned that your word(s) has a mixture, write it down and pass it to someone you trust and trust their discernment while you grow.
- You will have a difficult time in the Prophetic if you don't like your words being judged, scrutinized or clarified. Get used to it and want it!!!
- If you are trying to overcome the need to look peculiar (sweet) or the desire to always have spectacular (killer) words, offset that by being the 1st person to speak out in a team setting and set a foundation upon which others can succeed.
- This is Team Ministry: No "One Man Show"! Make space for those around you.
- Sometimes you will find that your role on the team for that session is to get interpretations for your team members; there just seems to be an anointing on you for that in that session. Go with it and recognize that sometimes, you are the catalyst for others to give words.

Overcoming the Fear of Failure:

Practice:

- Plan to fail 500 times within the next 5-6 months. If you stay within the healthy boundaries listed in this syllabus, you don't have to fear that your failures will severely wound people.
- Cultivate the Gift of Awareness: Go into a public place (store, Starbucks, airport, downtown, etc.) and watch to see what the Lord will say to you about someone. More specifically, ask God for a person's name, what they do for a living, or where they are headed. Most of the time He will show you things about many people, but you may only give out a couple of words.
- Don't just practice on subjective things like "I think I just saw an Angel". Practice on things that have a "yes or no" answer (e.g. Bobby and Becky in airports asking God for names of passengers and where they are headed and then go up to them and ask if what you heard was correct).
- Remember: Accuracy always takes a back seat to the "Fruit of the Spirit". But maturity requires both fruit and accuracy with a constant grid for overcoming fear of failure for the sake of growth. People do not focus as much on the details of the prophecy as much as they focus on how they experienced God.
- Don't limit yourself to your own personal interpretations! It's not always plain to see how what you get is relevant to the individual. Be faithful and bold to bring your part, even if that part seems obscure. Sometimes you need to search it out (carry your bible and a concordance if needed). Take your time and be still. Don't let



anxiety cloud your interpretations. It is like a treasure hunt and God will give you pieces as you go, so be faithful not to give up easily.

Let God be creative with you and allow the Holy Spirit to stretch you and cause you to try new things. The prophetic is a wonderful aspect of how God shares His heart and voice to people, so have a great time learning how to grow in the different ways of expressing God's love. Don't be afraid to mess up. You have a lifetime to grow in God and experience His wonderful voice. And just when you think you have figured Him out, He will add a new dimension to the ways, in which He speaks.

Stop The Stereotypes:

People often say, "God doesn't do things that are strange and out of order". Here are some scriptures that show that the prophetic lifestyle is sometimes strange and how God uses that to get His message across to us and to others.

Ezekiel 4

God tells Ezekiel that His people are chasing after other gods and that He wants Ezekiel to cook a meal over human dung as a prophetic act because God doesn't like what they are doing. When Ezekiel says "I'm not doing that" then God negotiates with Ezekiel to cook the meal over cow dung.

Ezekiel 8

The hand of the Lord fell upon Ezekiel in a meeting and a man on fire appears and grabs him by his hair and thrust him out of the meeting into the mid-heaven and over the gates of jealousy. Can you imagine seeing that happen?

Isaiah 20

God says to the prophet, ***"My people are uncovered, therefore take off your clothes and walk through the streets naked and uncovered for three years..."*** as a prophetic sign of Israel's need for God.

Bob Jones Stories:

- Bob used to say "Give me your phone number and if you're ever in trouble I'll call you".
- The first words he said to me were "The treasures of Egypt are in the land of Goshen". I had no idea what that meant until a few weeks later.

Activation: Prophesying Over Yourself:

1. Get a scripture reference as a word for yourself and combine that with any picture that the Lord may show you in advance. Then, go check the scripture reference and see how it correlates with the picture that God gave you. Put it together for a prophetic word for yourself. Clearly articulate what God is saying to you. Add a prophetic act to the word.
2. Prophecy with a blindfold on to increase your spiritual senses over your natural senses.