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# CATCH THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT: THE PROPHETIC

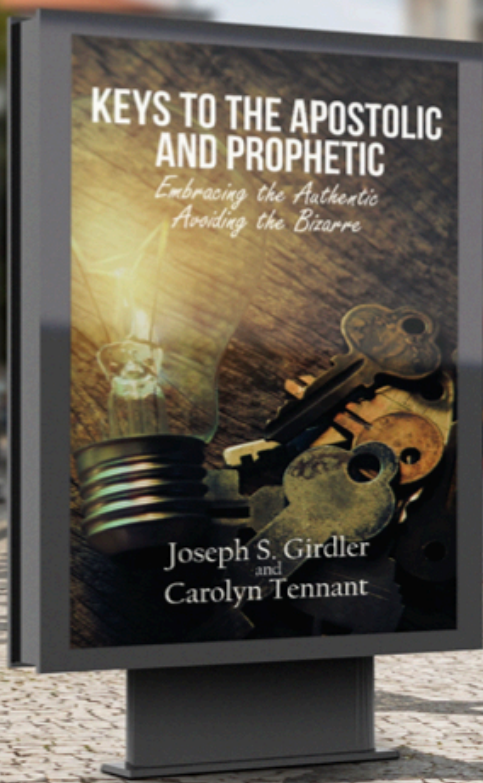


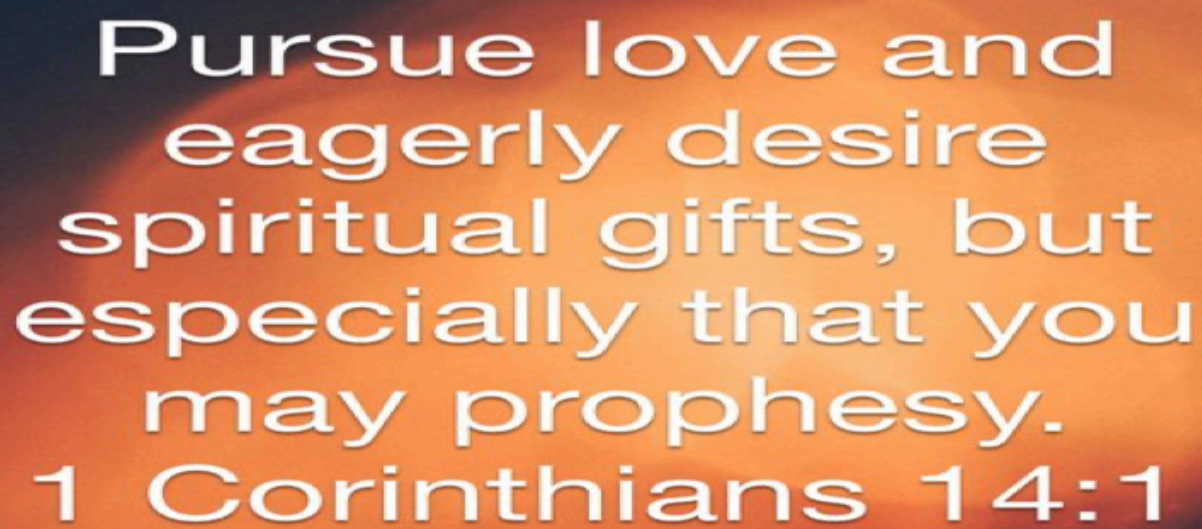
THE  
PROPHETIC  
VOICE

**KEYS TO THE APOSTOLIC  
AND PROPHETIC**

*Embracing the Authentic  
Avoiding the Bizarre*

Joseph S. Girdler  
and  
Carolyn Tennant





Pursue love and  
eagerly desire  
spiritual gifts, but  
especially that you  
may prophesy.  
1 Corinthians 14:1

## HOW WE NEED THE DIRECTION AND VOICE OF GOD IN OUR CHURCHES!

- The essence of prophecy is hearing from God and sharing that message properly.

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- **Probably of all the 5-fold currents flowing in the church, this one is the smallest---merely a trickle.**



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## ROBERT GREENLEAF:



- **“The variable that marks some periods as barren and some as rich in prophetic vision is in the interest, the level of seeking, the responsiveness of the hearers. The variable is *not* in the presence or absence or the relative quality and force of the prophetic voices. The prophet grows in stature as people respond to his message. If his early attempts are ignored or spurned, his talent may wither away.”**
- Robert K. Greenleaf. *The Servant as Leader*. The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, 2008.<http://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/199th/OCS/content/pdf/>

## MANY PEOPLE HESITATE TO MOVE IN PROPHECY TODAY. WHY?

- Fear of doing it wrong
- Lack of role models
- Not much teaching or mentoring on the topic

*Prophetic*  
JOURNEY  
≈

## WHAT ABOUT THE TITLE “PROPHET” TODAY?

- The title has often been subsumed by false prophets (false apostles and teachers are mentioned in Scripture too).
- Not all misuse is by false prophets; it can be a lack of maturity, understanding, and knowledge.

# I THESSALONIANS 5:

- **19 Do not quench the Spirit.**
- **20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt**
- **21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.**

## PROPHETS ARE CALLED BY GOD CONSIDER ISAIAH 6:5-9 (“GO AND TELL...”)

- <sup>5</sup> “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”
- <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”
- <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
- And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”
- <sup>9</sup> He said, “**Go and tell this people.....**”



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CHOZEH (VISIONARY)

NABI (SPEAK FORTH)

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- Two of the Hebrew words for prophet have to do with vision and seeing (a seer). The other has to do with speaking forth.
- The prophet's work has two parts:
  - 1) to receive the divine message and
  - 2) to deliver that message faithfully.



## WHAT DOES THE PROPHETIC ENTAIL?

- Working in the prophetic involves listening to God and then sharing what He wants to say according to His timing and desired manner.
- Being a “prophet” is more than giving a prophetic word in a church service or to an individual (i.e., being used in prophecy as a gift of the Spirit).

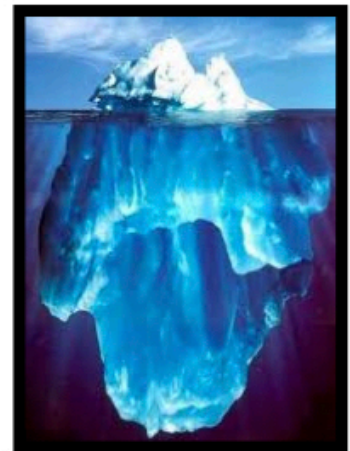
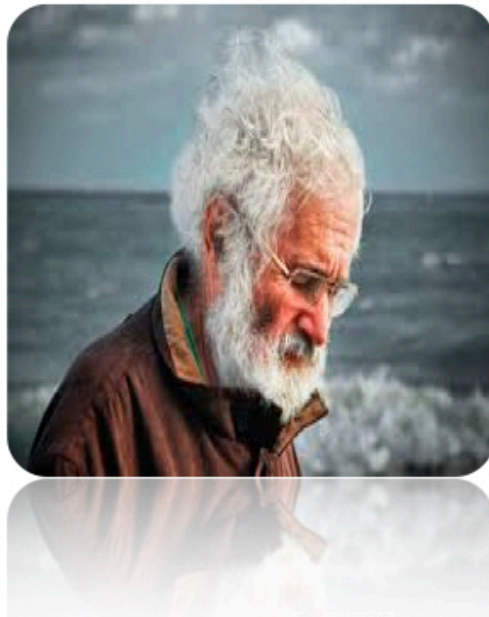
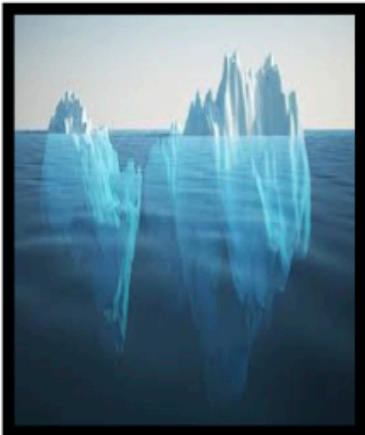
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- Prophecy is the only gift listed in all three lists of gifts---from the Spirit (1Cor. 12), gifts from Jesus (Eph. 4), and gifts from the Father (Romans 12).

## HEARING FROM GOD: ICEBERG INTERCESSION AND PRAYER



## **THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS A RICH ROLE THE PROPHETIC**



- He actually carries the prophetic word and delivers it through human beings.
- II Peter 1: 20-21---“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

## THE PROPHETIC MUST FLOW FROM THE COUNCIL ROOM OF GOD

- Jeremiah 23: 16-18 (NIV) refers to false prophets who speak on their own:
- This is what the Lord Almighty says, “Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they will fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They keep saying to those who despise me, ‘The Lord says: You will have peace.’ And to all who follow the stubbornness of their own hearts they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’ **But which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word?”**



**“BUT WHICH OF THEM HAS STOOD IN THE COUNCIL OF THE LORD TO SEE OR TO HEAR HIS WORD? WHO HAS LISTENED AND HEARD HIS WORD?”**



- Margins
- Silence
- Hearing how He wants us to pray; what He wants us to say and do
- Recognizing the prophetic when it's delivered
- Getting to know His voice so we respond anytime
- Seeing/discerning what God is doing around us

**TRUE PROPHETS ARE WILLING TO SPEND TIME WITH THE LORD AND LISTEN TO HIS VOICE**



- **In Jeremiah 23: 30-31 the Lord says, “...I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. Yes...I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The Lord declares.’ Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams... They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least.”**



- Time with God

PART 1: HEARING FROM GOD  
NOW---PART II: SHARING THAT WORD PROPERLY

**THE PROPHETIC CAN BE ANYWHERE.  
ANY TIME. TO ANY PERSON.**

(If we reduce the prophetic to a church service alone in our thinking, we have a narrow view and a limited release.)

## THE PROPHETIC MEMBER OF THE TEAM IS NOT LIMITED IN WAYS TO MINISTER

- **WHO?WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?**
- **The prophet has a large toolbox. No one should use a hammer when the tweezers will do the job.**
- **God cares that His word is heard. He will try again if it is not obeyed, and each time it is likely to get harder.**
- **Perhaps everything a prophet senses needs to be said...and maybe it doesn't. Some part might be left for a later time when the person is more open.**



# WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, WHERE, AND HOW?



## GOD USES DISTINCTIVE METHODS FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS



- **WHEN?** Sometimes a word from Him is supposed to be delivered in a church service, or perhaps afterwards or before or some other day of the week. Make it a matter of prayer until it is properly released.
- **FOR WHOM?** At times it is for an individual, or a small group, or the leaders, or the whole church.
- **WHERE and HOW?** The word might be given over a dinner table, at the altar, in the foyer, over the phone, in a committee or board meeting, through a written note, orally, etc.

**GOD HAS PARTICULAR METHODS AND PLACES BY WHICH HIS MESSAGE IS BEST GIVEN. ASPECTS TO CONSIDER:**

- **Are others around? Should they be or not?**
- **How many and who should be included in the word?**
- **How should it be given...loudly, whispered, sternly?**
- **What is the tone to be?**
- **Which of the many methods possible does He wish to use?**
- **How hard should the message be delivered?**



## PROPHECY HAS A MULTITUDE OF USES AND PURPOSES

The proper functioning of the prophetic remains crucial to the development, health, and well-being of today's churches.

## USES FOR PROPHECY

- The Lord uses prophecy to warn, foretell, guide/direct, shift, change, enlighten, correct, encourage, build up, exhort, assure, motivate, console, cleanse, confirm, and provide vision and courage.

## WE'RE IN THE MIDST OF MASSIVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SHIFTS

**...and the church today is wondering what to do next. Prophecy helps to provide direction.**



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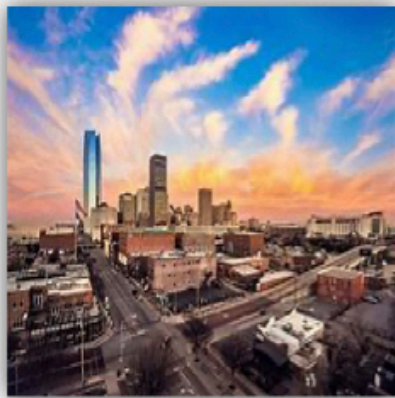
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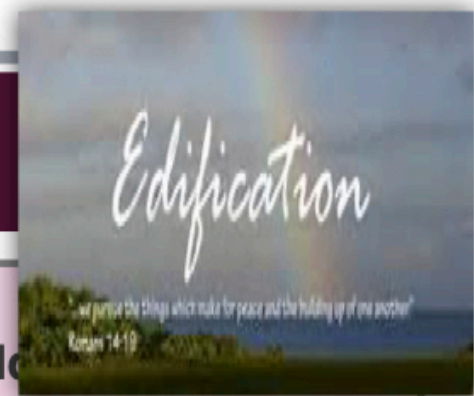


■ 1 Corinthians 14:3-4

"But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and comfort.  
..... he who prophesies edifies the church."

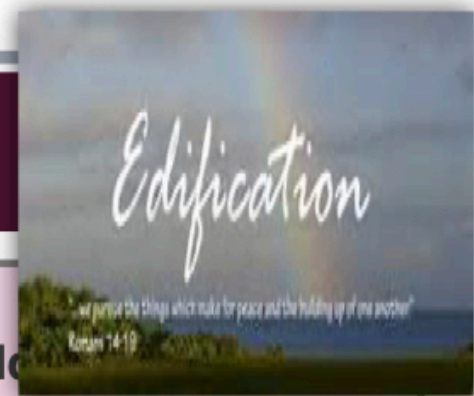
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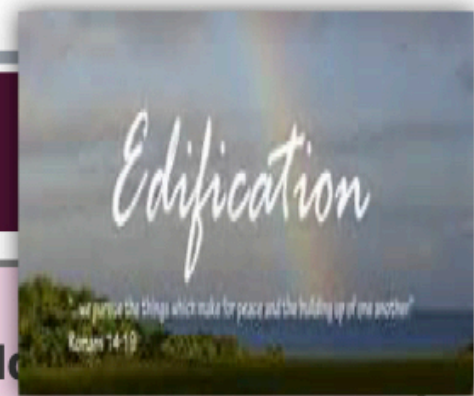


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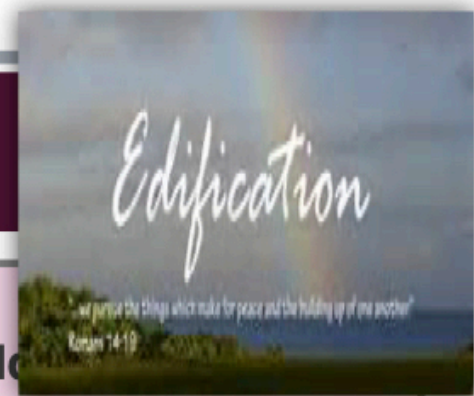
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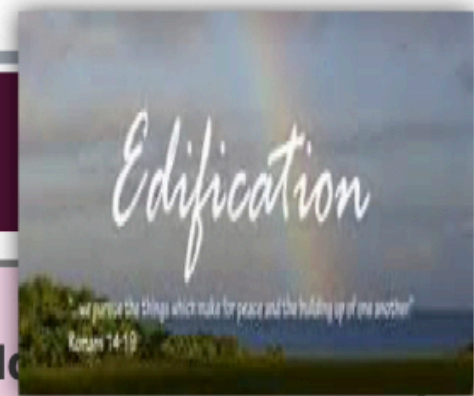
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# SHIFTING DIRECTIONS



# ENCOURAGEMENT

- The man on the sidewalk



## PROPHETIC WORDS CAN BE DELIVERED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS

- Preaching that shifts
- A spoken/written word
- A symbol (like Agabus binding his own feet)
- Books/blogs/articles
- Actions/dramatization
- Giving picture, “seeing”
- Simile and metaphor
- Stories (Nathan to David)
- Dreams and visions (e.g., Joseph)
- Prophetic worship

