

THE PROPHETIC FUNCTION

(from 5Q, Allan Hirsch)

Characteristics:

- Questions what has become normative
- Disturbs common thinking and practices
- Agitates for positive change
- Discerns the message of Truth
- Seeks to ensure an authentic response to Truth
- Core issue is one's relationship with God
- Urgency felt now, in the moment, "this must happen"
- Comfortable dismantling the present for future hope
- Deep compassion for the cause of the people
- Inspires all people to respond to God's message
- May communicate creatively to get message across

Functions:

- Maintaining the God focus/orientation through prayer and worship
- Cultivating commitments to social justice and commitments to respect the poor
- Engaging in spiritual warfare
- Speaking truth to power
- Encouraging repentance to maintain the God-relationship
- Encouraging a holy imagination of life under God's rule and covenant
- Developing prophetic sensibilities in leaders and ministers
- Questioning where organisations have become inhuman and self-protective
- Maintaining the moral and spiritual witness of the community
- Renouncing idolatry and false forms of worship
- Maintaining the integrity and authenticity to the founding values

Blind Spots (Watch out for these expressions of immaturity)

- Struggles to discern subjective and objective truth of a matter
- Moody and emotional
- Obsessed with being right
- "Super-spiritual"
- Tends to be black and white in their thinking (lacks nuance)
- Demanding about their own sense of call, dismissive of others' callings
- Self-righteous or self-condemning
- Easily frustrated
- Lack wisdom and graciousness
- Can reject relationships with people when they don't agree