

Part 3 (Session 2) Introduction to the Prophetic Ministry (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:16-18)

Part 3 (Session 2) – The Midrash Principle

Vanessa Lovelace defines “Midrash” is “a Jewish mode of Interpretation that not only engages in words of the text, behind the text, and beyond the text, but also focuses on each letter and the words left unsaid by each line.” The term is also used of a Rabbinic work that interprets the Scripture in that manner.



1.0 The Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is the only Source of true Prophetic Revelation - God-breathed:

1. God's Breath - 2Peter 1:21 (KJV) “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” The breath of God is experienced by all the Writers of the Scriptures - 2Timothy 3:16 (NIV) “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”

- **Carried Along** - The word “moved” (Greek: “phero”) means “to be carried along” or even “driven along as by wind” (c/f Acts 27:15-17). The Holy Spirit “carried along” the Apostles & Prophets with Prophetic Revelation.
- **God's Presence** – God's Spirit manifests God's Presence, and therefore, God's Presence cannot be experienced by logic and reason.
- **Revelation** – God's Presence can only be known by experience, and that experience is called “Revelation” – Luke 24:32b (KJV) “He (Jesus) opened to us the Scriptures.”

2. Eyes, Heart and Ear – Our spiritual eye has to be opened, our heart has to become vibrant and alive and our spiritual ear has to be attuned to the Spirit of God – *Matthew 13:15 (KJV) “For this people heart is become gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand (discern) with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”*

3. The Anointing – God’s Anointing is His Power that comes upon us so that we can perceive God’s Glory and Operate in God’s Power. The Anointing gives us the Supernatural Power to be able to move in the Gift of the Spirit, Jesus affirms (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; Acts 1:8) - God’s Anointing is important because we cannot see what God is doing in the Glory Realm unless we have His Anointing. His Anointing opens our spiritual eyes so that we can see.

4. God’s Glory – The Anointing of God is not synonymous with the Glory, but they are two different things – God’s Glory is an atmosphere heavy with His Splendour, whereas the Anointing is God’s Power that comes upon us to enable us to function with Supernatural Power.

5. Father’s Revelation – The Revelation that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), the Son of God came to Peter not from his own spirit but from God the Father - *Matthew 16:16b- (NIV) “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Jesus confirmed that this Revelation has its Source in God: *“Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 16:17b). In Creation, the Spirit of God brooded, hovered and vibrated over chaos and God the Father spoke the Creative Word (Revelation 19:13) and Creation came into being (Genesis 1:1-23).

1.1 Holy Spirit & Prophecy – Jesus promised His Disciples the “Gift of the Holy Spirit” (Luke 24:49) - His Promise is fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) – and also the “Pentecost” in the Individual and in Church History – *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.”*

1. Comforter - The Holy Spirit is known as ***“The Comforter”*** and Prophecy is one of the ways the Holy Spirit comforts the Believers – *1 Corinthians 14:3 “But he who prophesies speaks edification, exhortation and comfort to men.”* The term ***“Comforter”*** (Gk: *“parakletos”*) means “An Intercessor, Consoler, or Advocate.” Thus, one of the end-results of the Prophetic Ministry is to bring comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

2. Prophecy - On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit ***“gave the Disciples utterance,”*** which in Greek: *“Apophtheggomai,”* means ***“to speak forth”*** or ***“inspired-utterance”*** – which is Prophecy. Thus, the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” is the ***“Doorway”*** into the Prophetic-Realm (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:4) - The Baptism in the Holy Spirit” is not limited to “speaking in tongues” but also opened up into the **Prophetic-Realm**:

- **Zacharias**, the father of John the Baptist, is dumb and unable to speak until his tongue is loosed through the ***infilling*** of the Holy Spirit and he ***begins*** to Prophecy – *Luke 1:67 “And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying....”* (Luke 1:67-79) - The word ***“filled”*** (Gk: *“pietho”*) means “imbue, influence, or supply.”

- **Elizabeth**, John the Baptist's mother, *is filled* with the Holy Spirit and *begins* to Prophecy – *Luke 1:41b-42* “Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!.....Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.’” (Luke 1:41b-45).
- **Simeon** – The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that before his death, he would see our Lord Jesus Christ and he (Simeon) *released* the Prophetic Word, that Christ's life and ministry would impact both Israel and the Gentiles (Luke 2:25-32).
- **Ephesians** – The Ephesians Believers *received* the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and *Propheesied* - *Acts 19:6* “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”
- **Believer** – Believer and the Church should *Covet to Prophecy* (1Corinthians 14:1) and to *exercise* the Prophetic Gift (1Corinthians 14:31) under the direction of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19).

3. Spirit's Inspiration – *Job 32:8* “But there is a spirit in man: and the *inspiration* of the Almighty giveth them understanding.” Prophetic Word is **God's Thought** (Psalm 139:17-18a) and *brings Inspiration* to the Individual who received it. We are warned *not to quench* God's Spirit by rejecting God's Prophetic Word; but *to test* and *to accept* the portion of the Prophetic Word that passed the test – *1Thessalonians 5:19-21* “Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.” God's Prophetic Word brings blessing to the Individual and the Church:

- **Drops like Rain** – Prophetic Word of God *reveals* God's Presence and *is refreshing* as “rain” – *Psalm 68:8* “The earth shook, the heavens also *dropped* at the Presence of God.....” “**Drop**” (Heb: “*nataph*”) means “ooze, to distill gradually, to fall in drops, to speak by inspiration” – in other words, to prophesy. One of the ways God *inspires us* with His Presence is by “*dropping*” His Word into our spirit – this usually happens in our Worship.
- **Bubbles-Up** – The Hebrew word for Prophecy is “*naba*,” which means to speak or sing by Inspiration. The word “*naba*” carries the sense of “*bubbling, or springing-up, flowing, pouring out, gushing forth.*” The Hebrew word for Prophet is “*nabiy*,” which means an *inspired man*. The word for Prophetess is “*nabiyah*,” which means *inspired woman*. Thus, Prophet/Prophetess flows or bubbles-up with God's Inspired Word (Prophetic-Word – *rhema* – Romans 10:17).

The Inspiration to Prophecy can fall on an Individual “*like rain*” (*nataph*) or “*bubble-up*” (*naba*) from the inside of the Individual – the Inspiration to speak forth God's Word (*Rhema* – Romans 10:17) - *2Samuel 23:2* “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me (David), and His Word (Prophetic-Word) was in my tongue.” King David understands that he (David) sings under the Inspiration of God's Spirit as he (David) is called “*the Sweet-Psalmist of Israel*” – *2Samuel 23:1-2* “Now these are the last words of David. Thus, says David the son of Jesse; thus, says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the Sweet Psalmist of Israel: The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His Word was on my tongue.”