

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

1.0 Enrichment – Prophetic Word (Rhema – Romans 10:17) enriches the life of an Individual and the Church, in spiritual experiences. God pours His Spirit upon us, and His Life and Prophetic Word (rhema) flows through us! - *1 Corinthians 1:5-7* “*That in everything ye are **enriched** by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge. Even as **the testimony of Christ** was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, early waiting for the Revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

- **Generous Spirit** - The Holy Spirit is “***A Free (Generous – NKJV) Spirit***” (Psalm 51:12) which means “*Spirit is liberal, generous, and magnanimous {willing to share Himself with us} enriches each one of us with **all utterance***” – the word “**enrich**” speaks of something added to it – the word “**enrich**” carries the idea of abundance.
- **Strengthens & Establishes** – *Romans 1:11 Amp*) “*For I am yearning to see you, that I may impart and share with you some Spiritual Gift to **strengthen** and **establish** you.*”
- **Profitable to All** – *1 Cor. 12:7* “*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the Profit (Good) of All.*”
- **Edification, Exhortation & Comfort** – *1 Corinthians 14:3* “*But he who prophesies speaks edification, and exhortation and comfort to men.*”
 - Edification = Builds-up.
 - Exhortation = Stirs up.
 - Comfort = Binds up.
- **Brings God’s Life** – Prophetic Word is “**Zoe-Life**” (God’s Life) – *John 6:63* “*It is the Spirit who gives Life (Zoe-Life = God’s-Life); the flesh profits nothing. The **words (Rhema)** that I speak to you are Spirit and they are Life.*” – *1 Corinthians 3:6b* “*The Spirit gives Life (Zoe-Life = God’s Life).*”

That is why we are warned not to quench or limit the Holy Spirit’s Inspiration (Prophetic Word) – *1 Thessalonians 5:19-21* “*Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.*”

1. Breakthrough – Prophetic Word (utterance – Heb: “*nathan*”) has always been one of the “Keys” to breakthrough:

- *Joel 2:11* “*And the LORD shall **utter (nathan)** His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word.*”
- *Joel 3:16* “*The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and **utter (nathan)** His voice from Jerusalem.*”
- *Psalms 46:6* “*The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: He **uttered (nathan)** His voice, the earth melted.*”

Nathan, the Prophet confronted and rebuked King David for his (David's) adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband (Uriah – 2Samuel 12). Nathan's confrontation and rebuke exposes King David and causes him (David) to repent and to seek God's forgiveness (Psalm 51). The "**Earth melts**" when God **utters** (Heb: "nathan") His Voice (Psalm 46:6b) – this means Prophetic Word from God (2Samuel 23:2) affects the physical realm, including the people on Earth. Prophetic Word enriches (1Corinthians 14:3) or exposes life (King David – 2Samuel 12; Psalm 51).

2. Lifestyle – Under the Old Covenant, God's Spirit comes **upon** certain Individuals (Prophet, Priest, King – Numbers 11:25), and they would speak under the Inspiration ("**Oracle of God**") of the Holy Spirit; however, in the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit **Indwells** the born-again Believer (1John 2:20, 27), therefore, each one of us can "**speaks as the Oracles of God**" – 1Peter 4:11a "*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.*" – The word "**Oracle**" (Gk: "logion") means "**a brief utterance of God.**" Thus, each one of us should be "**God's Mouthpiece**" with His Oracles. This is the blessing of the New Covenant, and it is part of our Inheritance.

3. The Boundary – The Individual's Prophetic Anointing (God's Ability – 1Peter 4:11) is bounded by God's Grace and it is in proportion to the Faith – *Romans 12:6 "Having then gifts differing according to the **grace** that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our **faith**."*

(a) God's Grace – *Romans 12:6a "Having then gifts differing according to **the grace** that is given to us, let us use them."* – Grace is God's Anointing (Ability – 1Peter 4:11), which is our boundary. In the Prophetic, the Individual is limited by the amount of God's Grace granted to him (Romans 12:6). Thus, an Individual determines "**the Measure of God's Grace**" and operates within its boundaries ("**Spirit of Prophecy?**" – Revelation 19:10b; "**Gift of Prophecy?**" – 1Corinthians 12:10b; "**Office of Prophet?**" – Ephesians 4:11).

(b) Gift/Grace – Spiritual Gifts are in association with God's Grace - *Romans 12:6a "Having then gifts differing according to **the grace** that is given to us, let us use them."* (1Peter 4:10-11; Ephesians 4:7; 1Corinthians 3:10; 1Corinthians 15-10).

(c) Faith - *Romans 12:6b "If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith."* The term, "faith" is not personal believe but: (1) The Level of God's Anointing; (2) The Faith based on God's Written Word – The Individual who operates in the Prophetic Realm should also take into consideration, the Level of Faith (Anointing & God's Word {Logos}).

4. Prophet & Prophecy – There is a difference between Prophet (Jeremiah 1:10) and the Gift of Prophecy (1Corinthians 12:10): - **Gift of Prophecy** – The Gift of Prophecy is given by God's Spirit (1Corinthians 12:10, 11) - God's Gift to him is his **ability** to Prophecy. The **Prophetic Words** themselves are the "Gift of the Holy Spirit" (1Corinthians 12:10). **Prophet** – Prophet is one of the Fivefold Ministers given as "Gifts-of-Christ," to the Church (Ephesians 4:7-11); thus, a Prophet is Christ's Gift to His Church (Ephesians 4:7, 11).

5. Call/Gift/Anointing – There are three important features in an Individual’s Life & Ministry, in the Church of Jesus Christ:

- **The Calling** (Romans 11:29) – God’s Calling gives “**God’s Identity**” to an Individual, in Him (God) – *1 Corinthians 1:1* “*Paul, called as an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God.*” God’s Calling describes “**who**” the Individual is.
- **The Gifting** (Romans 11:29) – Spirit’s Gifting is “**the Spirit’s Manifestation**” through an Individual – *1 Corinthians 12:7* “*But the Manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*”
- **The Anointing** (Luke 4:18) – God’s Anointing is “**God’s Power**” to an Individual, in Him (God) – *Luke 4:18* “*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. To proclaim the acceptable year (Year of Jubilee) of the LORD.*” (Acts 10:38; Acts 1:8).

God’s **Calling** & **Gifting** to an Individual are **irrevocable** (Romans 11:29); but God’s Anointing **ebbs** and **flows** according to the Individual relationship with the Holy Spirit. God’s Anointing provides the Individual or the Church **God’s Power** in his Life & Ministry (Acts 1:8).

1.1 The Source – Many Christians are confused about the Prophetic – what it is and how it operates? - We live in a day when many Bible “Scholars” have reduced God’s Word to a purely rational and logical explanation. Although God’s Word is rational and logical in its unfolding, nevertheless, it is much more, beyond the Natural into the Supernatural. For us to understand better, we need to explain some foundational facts. Scripture teaches that the word could come from any one of three Sources:

1. Man – The human spirit is capable of voicing thoughts, ideas, and communications. This is the person “*who speaks out of his own heart.*” His words are not God’s Revelation, but are words coming from his own spirit:

- *Ezekiel 13:2b, 3b (KJV) “That prophesy out of their own hearts Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirits, and have seen nothing!”*
- *Jeremiah 23:16 (KJV) “Thus saith the LORD of hosts, hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you. They make you vain (false-hope – NIV); they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.”*

When Jesus asked His Disciples: “*Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am?*” (Matthew 16:13b), the Disciples without the Spirit’s Revelation answered: “*Some say that Thou art John the Baptist; some, Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets*” (Matthew 16:14).

2. God – Matthew 16:15-19 “He (Jesus) said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus answered and said to him (Peter), ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in Heaven. And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.’”

The Revelation that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ), the Son of the Living 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 the Father: “Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17b). The Voice of God by the Holy Spirit is an inner prompting, a quiet drawing and gentle leading, without condemnation, but with gentle conviction. This grows stronger as we grow in our level of sensitivity. The Voice of the Holy Spirit is often like **a small inner knowing** that arises within us - 1Kings 19:12 “A still small voice.”

3. Satan – Shortly later, Jesus rebuked Peter because he (Peter) says that the Death and Resurrection of Christ, as foretold by Him (Jesus), would not occur (Matthew 16:21-22). Jesus recognized the Source of this denial as Satanic and rebuked Satan as speaking through Peter’s lips – Matthew 16:23(NIV) “Jesus turned and said to Peter, ‘**Get behind Me Satan!**’ You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Satan’s two characteristics common to their Master, Satan:

- **False Accusation** – Revelation 12:10b (KJV) “The Accuser of the brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night.” – Satan falsely accused Job before God (Job 1:9-11; 2:4-5).
- **Deception** - Satan is a Liar – John 8:44b (KJV) “There is no truth in him. When he (Satan) speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it” (Revelation 20:3). The Satanic spirits are evident in false Apostles, Prophets, but not necessarily restricted to them (2Corinthians 11:13-15).

Messages delivered through the evil spirits are dangerous to the people ignorant of God’s Word or inexperienced in discernment, because Satan loves **to mix** just enough “truth” or factual statements in with his lies to trap gullible people. **Acts 16:16-18** records about a slave girl with a spirit of Divination who “spoke the truth” about the Disciples, but got it from the Satanic Source. When the Apostle Paul eventually has heard enough and was irritated within, he commanded the spirit of divination to leave her.

4 Spirit & Flesh – Prophecy could begin in the Spirit but ended up in the “flesh,” that is, stepping out beyond the Anointing – *Galatians 3:3b (KJV)* “*Having begun in the Spirit.....made perfect by the flesh?*” Furthermore, the person could have prophesied beyond the level of his faith – *Romans 12:6b (KJV)* “*Whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.*”

In spite of the possibility of “*mixture*” or “*Spirit-flesh*” in the prophecy, nevertheless, we should not be afraid to prophesy or accept the “Gift of Prophecy,” – thus not “Quenching the Spirit or Despise Prophesying”

- *1Thessalonians 5:19-20 (KJV)* “*Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying.*”
- *1Thessalonians 5:19-20 (NIV)* “*Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt.*”

On the other hand, it means that personal prophecy or prophecy for the Church should only come from those who are mature with Proven Ministries. Mature Ministries have learned to know God’s Voice and to be sensitive of the Source of their Prophetic Revelation. Younger and immature ministries who attempt to move in this sphere can cause havoc in people’s lives. It also requires that a Prophetic Word be judged (1Corinthians 14:29) and proved (1Thessalonians 5:19-21). The judging of prophecy provides a safeguard for the people against a word which would contain “mixture” of “Spirit-flesh.”