

# School of the Prophetic Lesson 8

## Expressions of the Prophetic

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**“You can’t put a prophet or the prophetic in a box.”** God will use the prophetic gift in you according to your unique personality and giftedness in other areas too. If He has gifted you as a dancer he can use your prophetic gift in that context. If He has gifted you musically He can also express the prophetic in song or instruments. Having said that, you really don’t have to be extremely gifted in an area to be used prophetically in that domain. Just make sure that it does edify.

### 1. Prophetic Presbytery

**‘Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.’** (1 Tim 4:14, NIV)

“Prophetic presbytery occurs when a time and place is set aside for two or more ministers with a gift of prophecy to bring prophetic insights and encouragement from God to an individual or group of people.” Helen Calder.

Paul is referring back to a presbytery when he writes to Timothy. We see that there are various dimensions of ministry that may occur in these times:

1. Impartation
2. Commissioning
3. Prayer
4. Charging with stewardship

These experiences are often very powerful as it tends to be easier prophesying in a group and feeding off each other. Often in this context there is the functioning of the office of prophet and also the prophetic spirit. Other group prophesy sessions that are not necessarily presbyteries take place in various formats; sometimes as “fire tunnels” to give many people a chance to pray over individuals. These tend to be more informal and less “by invitation only”.

## **2. Prophetic Song**

**Eph 5:18-19**

**18And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;**

**1 Cor 14:15**

**So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.**

God is raising up prophetic psalmists like David. It's amazing the impact a prophetic song can have on the life of a congregation. Very often we see these songs birthed when God is birthing something in our midst. As we sing and sing these songs we see the manifestation of that which we are singing about. Prophetic Song can manifest as unrehearsed songs to the Lord that are from Him, or Songs from the Lord to His bride, the church or to the nation. Either way these are songs from the Lord. One of the benefits of singing prophecy is that the congregation can join in and we can experience the power of unity and agreement.

## **3. Prophetic Dance**

**2 Samuel 6:14**

**And David danced before the LORD with all his might...**

There are times in a service or in personal times of worship where God may lead you to dance instead of only declaring with your voice. The dance is a prophetic act not a mere symbolic act. He may lead a prophetic person to dance on their mountain top or to tread as a statement of warfare. Sometimes prophetic leaders will lead a congregation in this manner to enforce something in the spirit realm. It's important to be sensitive to what that Holy Spirit instructs you at that time. Sometimes prophetic dance is seen in group choreography that symbolizes something God is expressing. In the Old Testament prophets would often do something with their physical bodies to express that which God was saying.

*“There are no examples of dance used prophetically or in any other way in worship in the New Testament although we know from the Talmud (Mishnah Sukkah 51 a-b) that dance was still found in the temple. From the writings of the early and mediaeval church we read that dance and movement are found in worship up to the 17th century.”* Mary Jones, Founder of International Christian Dance Fellowship.

#### **4. Prophetic Playing of an Instrument**

I have adapted Diane Dew’s highlights of various uses of instruments in scripture beyond direct worship. When we understand these biblical expressions of instruments it gives us a glimpse into how they can be used prophetically. As you go through this, state how you think these instruments may be used today as prophetic expressions.

1. The timbrel (tambourine) was popular in use with dance to celebrate military victories.

Exodus 15:1-21

Judges 11:34

I Samuel 18:6, 7

2. The trumpet had multiple uses.

- a. To proclaim feast days.

Leviticus 23:23-25; 25:9

- b. To gather an assembly.

Numbers 10:1-8

- c. To sound an alarm for battle against the enemy.

Numbers 10:9

Nehemiah 4:18, 20

Joel 2:1

Amos 3:6

Jeremiah 4:19

I Corinthians 14:8

- d. To herald the arrival of a new king.

I Kings 1:34-41

- 3. The harp and oboe were used during joyous “secular” festivities.

Isaiah 5:12

Amos 5:23; 6:4-6

- 4. The oboe was also played during funeral ceremonies.

Matthew 9:23

- 5. Solomon listened to music for his own personal enjoyment.

Ecclesiastes 2:1, 8

- 6. Many instruments came to be used in the worship of pagan gods.

Daniel 3:4-7, etc.

There are sounds in the spirit and there are times when we play instruments prophetically as prophecy. Often drums act as instruments of war. It's important for band leaders to know when to allow a specific instrument to be expressed as a prophetic statement. Unfortunately those who are immature in this may sometimes think it's just a solo time to show off.

## **5. Prophetic Art**

Bezelel and Oholiab:

**Ex 35:34-35**

**"He also has put in his heart to teach, both he and Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. 35" He has filled them with skill to perform every work of an engraver and of a designer and of an embroiderer, in blue and in purple and in scarlet material, and in fine linen, and of a weaver, as performers of every work and makers of designs.**

Often as an expression of worship artists may begin to paint or draw prophetically. The artwork that stems from this glorifies God and communicates His heart. Art is always supposed to display the beauty of God.

## **6. Prophetic Teaching**

**Mt 10:19**

**When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say.**

**God will give you the right words at the right time. ...**

It's important to have enough Word in you to be able to teach prophetically. There are times when you go on "Holy Ghost rabbit trails" and this is typically when you are flowing with your prophetic gift in the context of teaching. You are sharing things you hadn't planned to share but under the unction of the Spirit you are led to do so. I often find that the things that I share in this manner seem to be the ones that really touch people. If you are prophetic and also a control freak you might be limiting this gift in yourself because of your need to know before-hand every single thing you are going to say.

## **7. Prophetic Writing**

**2 Tim 3:16**

**All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

The bible is a good example of this. It ranges from John's Epistle to Jesus' parables and the Song of Songs. They were all inspired by God but had very different styles. It's the same today where prophetically gifted people can write inspired material in very diverse ways. There are fables, poems, novels, teaching books that are all inspired by God to a point where the prophetic writer might say "I couldn't recognise it as my own work as I wrote. It was the same way I feel when I am prophesying except I was writing." The different writers of the bible were not cloned to become something they were not in order to record the bible. They still maintained their uniqueness and God worked with that. Prophetic writing can manifest as you email people or even when you write birthday greetings on a card.

## **8. Prophetic Counselling**

**1 Cor 12:8**

**To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit**

This gift makes counselling a lot easier. This is when the Lord gives you words of knowledge and words of wisdom and also discerning of spirits to bring freedom and wholeness to those you are counselling. Often this may require you to wait on the Lord before-hand or He can choose to show you things whilst you are ministering or praying for the individual. It saves a lot of time and afterwards you don't feel as drained as you would ordinarily feel.

## **9. Prophetic Pastoring and Parenting**

**Heb 13:17**

**Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.**

**1 Cor 5:3-4**

**For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present. 4In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,**

This is where God leads you prophetically to know who to phone or speak to. This is also where God gives you a sense of the state of the flock. Sometimes it may feel like an intuitive knowing of who needs help, or even what issues you need to address in your next teaching series. Pastors that are gifted prophetically have an advantage in that they are more likely to be relevant in their focus. When a pastor is not gifted in this manner it becomes all the more important for him or her to consult with many people concerning what is going on. Whilst this is an important part of ministry it is good to not only rely on what people say but to have a prophetic sense yourself. In pastoral work people will often tell you what they think you want to hear. Pastoring prophetically helps you to see beneath the smiles. These same pastoral principles apply to other forms of leadership such as teaching a class or parenting your children.

## **10. The Prophetic in the marketplace**

**Luke 5:5-7**

**Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink....**

Openness to functioning prophetically in the marketplace is crucial. This ranges from trusting God for business ideas to getting words of wisdom to solve complex problems. When God is in it there are no limits! Some people have had prophetic dreams where God has given them a business idea and those businesses went on to be a great success.

Joseph and Daniel are good examples of the prophetic in the context of government.

## **11. Prophetic intercession**

**Rom 8:26-27**

**In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

This is where we stand in the gap on behalf of others relying completely on God for His information with regards to how to pray. God can show you who to pray for and also in what manner to pray. Sometimes you can have a flash vision of someone's face as an indication to pray for them. On other occasions you may find yourself suddenly thinking of someone without anything at that moment reminding you of them. It's likely to be the Holy Spirit bringing them to remembrance. Sometimes prophetic intercession is taking place when you start praying for someone, not knowing what you will pray, then all sorts of things come up in the prayer time "bubbling forth" as the Holy Spirit comes to your aid.