

# The Mystery of the Prophetic Heart

## INTRO

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:14, that of all the spiritual gifts, prophecy should be the one most sought after. But like the lens of a camera, if it is dirty or clouded, you get a false picture. And when the lens of a prophet's heart is messed up; if there's hurt, rejection, anger or anti-authority attitudes; these can pollute the message that comes out.

Mark Dupont has been involved in international ministry since 1982, and one thing he's found is that while prophetic ministry can bring so much light, it can also cause much damage. Many pastors have told him that they have resisted having prophetic ministries come to their church because the last ones were controlling, did not represent the heart of God, and were not responsive to authority. 1st Tim. 1:5 says that the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart. That is the foundation for any solid ministry, especially the prophetic that carries so much weight—carrying inspired words of the Holy Spirit.

## TEACHING 1.

A lot of times when prophets, or wanna be prophets or prophets in training look at prophesy, they mistakenly think of the Old Testament prophesy. Those were sovereign words spoken by the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah and others.

- Those words were usually telling of something that was going to happen unless the recipients changed their hearts, and if they didn't that event would happen.
- 99% of all New Testament words are conditional words; which mean you and I need to respond to that word.
- Today's prophecy is like diving into a pool of prayer.
- "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love Him" (1Corinthians 12:9).
- Often, the way to come into the "more" is through prayer. When a word of prophetic encouragement or exhortation comes about something we've never heard before, we begin to pray, "Lord, what would you have us do?"
- Prophecy in that sense is like a seed. The whole Bible talks a lot about seeds and fruit. Genesis 1:2 talks a lot about seed bearing plants and trees. A prophetic word does not always look like much when it is given—a seed is only dead wood—but as we treasure that word and put it in our hearts, it is as though we are watering that seed through prayer.

- Then as God confirms that word, and begins to open doors—sometimes small doors at first—we give nutrition to that word by walking in obedience.
- If God does give sovereign words, they are the exception, such as the word about Japan He gave to Mark in 1994—“I am going to do this.”
- Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that we should give what we have decided in our hearts to give, not reluctantly, or under manipulation or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. That’s a principal for all of giving—all of sacrifice. The same is true for a prophetic word.
- Because a lot of people who are living out of rejection or have had a lot of wounds in their heart find the thought of being a prophet or someone with a lot of authority very appealing—for all the wrong reasons.
- Ministry is a call to serve, not to control or manipulate. They think the more mystical gifts will give them more control over people’s lives.
- “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God” (Romans 8:14). God wants us to be led by the Spirit—to respond to the authority of the written word of God and respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our own priesthood as we pray and listen to the Lord.
- It is important that as we grow in giving words of encouragement and even insight into someone’s future, that we always do it in the posture of serving and understanding that we are not giving words to control people.

## TEACHING 2.

It’s not just about what we say, but who we are.

- The teacher is the teaching; the prophet is the prophecy and the messenger is the message.
- Some of the hardest words that Jesus gave as far as rebukes go were not to people involved in great sin, but to leaders living in hypocrisy.
- They said one thing, but lived another.
- That means for us who are growing in the prophetic gift that we need to live the message.
- When prophesying, the end goal is love.

So what is love?

- Meeting practical needs is an extension of the love of God.
- Love has to happen in the consistency of relationship.
- Many prophets have great anointings, but don’t have the revelation of living in committed relationships of love.

- Primary relationships are to our spouses, the body of Christ, and to our friends.

One of the main aspects of God written in the Scriptures is faithfulness.

- Peter, after three years walking in discipleship with Jesus, ended up denying Him three times.
- But Jesus knew that when He called Peter.
- "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas."'"
- The name Simon has the connotation of something weak. Jesus knew that Peter was gripped inwardly by a fear of man. Jesus saw past that because he was committed to the relationship. That was why Jesus said Peter would be called Cephas, which means a small rock. Peter would later reflect Jesus himself, leading people to salvation.
- We find it easy in this disposable age, to toss off marriage and break friendships—we just blow people off.
- But loved calls for the context of relationship and relationship calls for the context of commitment.
- If you feel called to grow in the prophetic gifting and anointing, be committed to relationships.
- Sometimes a relationship can feel like a heavy burden, but work through it because that is what love is all about.

### TEACHING 3.

What is covenant?

- Covenant is a blood relationship.
- It goes all the way back to the Old Testament times where two people would say, may it be done to me as it was done to these sacrificed animals if I do not fulfill my commitment to you.
- Our relationship with God is based on a blood covenant—Jesus shed His blood on the cross for us.
- Marriage is a sacred covenant to God.
- There can be grounds for divorce if the relationship becomes dangerous or abusive, but we give up too easily.
- When we say our vows, for better or worse, we find out things about one another that we may not have known going into the marriage. But in

the two becoming one, it's like our relationship with the person of God. God in time exposes things within us but He loves us graciously and with mercy.

- Over a period of time He weeds those things out. He prunes us—because He is committed to us.

We must also be committed to the local church.

- Many prophets, itinerants and evangelists etc. are not part of a local church.
- They don't then have any business preaching from a pulpit, because the goal of instruction is from a pure heart.
- How can it be that we are representing Jesus, the Prince of Peace, but cannot bother to work through relationships of commitment through the difficult times, and stay committed to one another?
- Prophetic people especially, think that because they have revelation that they know more than the pastor or elders. But the Bible says that we see in part and know in part (1 Cor. 13:9).
- There is strength when we come together.
- 1 Peter 5:8 says that Satan goes about as a lion seeking whom he can devour. Lions go after the stragglers and the wounded ones—the ones who become isolated from the rest of the herd.
- When a Christian is apart from the body of Christ, they are easily picked off.
- God puts authority in our lives not to control us, but to encourage us.
- Sometimes we just want to run with our giftings, but God will put leaders in our lives that will help us sit down and receive the full revelation of who God is so we can be effective.
- It's not that we will never run; the message may just be "Not today."
- We all need leadership. If you see yourself in prophetic ministry integrate yourself into a local church—because that is where love is really exercised.
- If you want to have authority, you need to be under authority.
- We're in an anti-authority Western world society today—we don't want anyone telling us what's up, we don't want anyone sitting on us—we don't want any restraints on us.
- That spirit of independence is called in the Bible lawlessness, yet it gets confused in the mind of the church because they may see an anointing.
- But In Matthew 7:23 Jesus said, get away from Me, I never knew you; and they said but Master, we cast out demons in Your name, we healed the sick in Your name. But He told them to get away from Him—He never knew them, those who practice lawlessness.

How does that translate to authority?

There are two types of authority in the kingdom of God:

- Inherent authority
  - Over every believer as we walk in obedience to the Bible and what the Lord directs us to do.
- Delegated Authority
  - Example: A policeman has authority not because he carries a badge and a gun, but because of what that badge represents—that he himself has been released by authority to the city.

Jesus honored the authority of a mere man, even though He was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- He came to John the Baptist even though John humbly told Him that he needed to be baptized by Jesus Himself. Jesus' replied to John that it should be done for now, to fulfill righteousness.
- He recognized that John was still the Father's chief kingdom spokesman, and by honoring God's authority upon John, He was honoring the Father.
- That's why afterwards three things happened:
  - One, the Spirit of God came upon Him as a dove, meaning power and gifts.
  - Two, there was an open heaven meaning freedom for ministry.
  - Third and most importantly, the Father spoke His approval. "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased."

We need to honor authority in the church we are invited to minister in.

Summary:

We are to desire the gift of prophesy more than all the other gifts. Why? Because when we release a word of encouragement or give revelation about the future, it can impart so much faith and hope, it can take people around corners in their lives.

But because God ministers through our heart and who we are, if we are not living for love and in love, the message tends to become polluted, convoluted and can actually cause harm. There is a weight upon us as we serve and minister prophetically, to serve God with wholeness and out of grace.