

Prophetic – 2
Pursue the Prophetic: Purpose and Vision

A) Office of the Prophet – 1 Corinthians 12:1

- i. Prophet is one who is called (appointed, ordained) by God to be a prophet. It is an office, a position, etc. God chooses and calls a prophet. It is their identity.
 - 1. Jeremiah 1:5
 - 2. God called Paul to be an apostle. Romans 1:1, 1 Cor 1:1.
- ii. They operate in the prophetic but are called to lead and to train up the body in the prophetic. (“Equipping of saints...” Ephesians 4:11, 12)
- iii. i.e. we should all be sharing the gospel, sharing Jesus, but we are not all called to the office of the evangelist. Same with Pastor, Teacher, etc.

B) The prophetic is a gift available to all in the church, it is available to all.

- i. It is available to all because Joel 2:28 says- It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, Your old men will have dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29And even on the male and female servants. I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
- ii. I know it is a choice to do it because Paul said-“Pursue love yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.” 1 Cor 14:1 [all chapter]
- iii. 1 Cor 14:39, 40. Therefore, my brothers *and sisters*, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40But all things must be done properly and in an orderly way.
- iv. Learning and living “prophetic” is not for a handful of “chosen”.
- v. Whether prophet or prophetic – both is for the service to others. We are always motivated by the Father’s heart and humility and love are key.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 13:2 1If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I have *the gift of* prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
- vi. God calls us friends, but we are still co-laborers (1 Cor 3:9) with Christ and a servant is not greater than his/her Master.

C) Purpose of prophetic - "Pursue love, yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For the one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people, but to God; for no one understands, but in his Spirit he speaks mysteries. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for edification, exhortation, and consolation. 1 Corinthians 14:1-3

1. Edification-to build up; has denotation of architecture (base word).
2. Exhortation- admonition, encouragement.
3. Consolation-to comfort, console, calm.

D) Prophecy can be used for ministry of reconciliation-to share the heart of God with unbelievers. 2 Cor 5:18,19; It is the glory of kings to seek out treasure. Prov 25:2 [in people, situations]

E) Prophecy edifies the church

The one who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but the one who prophesies edifies the church. *Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but rather that you would prophesy;* and greater is the one who prophesies than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edification. ' 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

- i. The gift is for others. 'So you too, since you are eager to possess spiritual gifts, **strive to excel for the edification of the church.** '1 Corinthians 14:12
- ii. It is to build up the body of Christ; the individuals in the body of Christ. Acts 15:32 says, "Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words."
- iii. It is also to build up the corporate body of Christ. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without the prophetic (vision), people perish."
 - a. **Stay Focused (email from Dutch Sheets "Give Him 15" February 3, 2022**

Proverbs 29:18 is a fairly well-known verse of scripture: "*Where there is no vision, the people perish...*" (KJV). This is an accurate translation, but incomplete. Like many Old Testament verses, it is impossible to glean the full meaning of this passage without a more complete understanding of the Hebrew words used. A good expanded translation could be, "*Where there*

is no [chazown] prophetic revelation, regardless of the manner in which it is received - a dream, vision, revelation, prophecy, mental impression and more - people [para] become unrestrained, uninformed, uncovered (naked, exposed), unmotivated, disunited; they miss opportunities and can even perish."

- a. From both a spiritual and natural perspective, having a corporate identity and vision is powerful. It gives purpose, direction, and focus.
 - b. Without prophetic vision, it is easy to end up with aimless (or worse- carnal) churches hosting religious gatherings once or twice a week with a singing session and life improvement speech. There is no real insight to the heartbeat of God nor any real impact to those that are in their scope of influence.
 - c. The church has more to offer if we will make ourselves available to all God has according to His word.
 - d. God desires for the church to be edified. 1 Corinthians 14:12
 - ii. Jeremiah 29:11
 - a. God has the plans. They are blueprints. Prophecy brings those plans and blueprints from the heavenly realm and releases them into the earth so that they may come to materialization.
 - b. Prophetic activates those plans and the things God wants to do in individuals, churches, cities, etc. (Calling out the gold.)
 2. Ezekiel spoke to dry bones to come back to life. Ezekiel 37
 - a. God knows and He will direct.
 3. 2 Chronicles 20:20 – Believe the prophets
 4. Gospels – Jesus rebuked cities and the Jews for not believing the prophets. Rhema as well as written word. Matthew 4:4
- B. Earnestly desire spiritual gifts. (5 minutes)
1. 1 Corinthians 14:1 “Pursue love, yet earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”
 2. God is not going to make us. He leads us. Psalm 23; 2 Cor 2:14
 3. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6
 4. He is a good Father who gives good gifts if we ask.