

PROPHECY AND ITS REWARDS – BY DANA PETERS-COLLEY

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PROPHECY – HOW TO BE WISE IN MOVING IN THE PROPHETIC

Many seem to think that prophets ended when Jesus came but that's not the case. When Christ was given all authority in the earth, the Apostle Paul tells us that there is a five-fold ministry and in this ministry, there are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. ⁱ

WHAT IS A PROPHET?

There are two kinds of prophetic giftings that operate in the earth. One occurs when a person is in the midst of a gathering and the anointing of God is so strong, they and everyone around them has the ability to prophesy. ⁱⁱ Then, there is the station of the prophet, described as part of the five-fold ministry. This person has been chosen or called out by God and has been consecrated to carry the heart of God to the body of Christ. Think about it, carrying the heart of God. It is literally amazing that our God who is so incredibly loving allows someone to share assist Him in pouring out His sweeping love, direction, and words of encouragement. Yet, that is what our God does. He establishes a person to come and minister words from Him to you. This is the assignment of the Prophet: edification, exhortation, and comfort.

These words have a root in the word architecture, and if you think about it, God may send a prophet to come in and help you get your building in right order. Sometimes, God is going to add another story onto the building, and the person is going to rise higher. Other times there may be some wrong construction that has been set in place and God wants to remove it, and if there's a faulty foundation, God may need to get down to the sub-structure so that He can build more. God's heart is always about building, and wanting to build you into the person you were designed to become.

This is the work of a prophet. Jesus Christ, our Lord, both a Prophet and an Apostle, as well as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and God in the flesh, went through the greatest sufferings in order to obtain the keys to all of the earth so that you can have what God wants to give you. Just as Jesus Christ received the reward of having dominion over the earth, a prophet will receive a reward for the price that the prophet has paid to carry the anointing.

WHAT ARE THE REWARDS A PROPHET RECEIVES?

One-on-one encounters with God. Explanations about what is happening. Secrets from God. ⁱⁱⁱ Dreams. Revelation. Visitations. Angels. Extreme times of joy. Knowledge. Wisdom. Peace. Direction. Understanding God's plan as the Holy Spirit speaks it or shows it. God's prophets will express what it is to experience the heart of God and to share that with the receiver.

Therefore, if you receive a prophet in the name of a prophet, you receive a prophet's reward.

HOW DO I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH A PROPHET AND IF IT'S NOT FALSE?

Think of it this way: God as the Architect for the body of Christ has a way He wants things to be built. There's an order to building up the body:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then, gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. ^{iv}

God places prophets into the body of Christ with a specific assignment. They don't know everything, they know the part God wants to reveal. (1 Corinthians 13:9)

Jesus also warns us about false prophets, so how do we know if what a prophet is speaking is God?

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The word is clear:

- In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.^v So, if the word is confusing or does not ring true, then, ask God to send a confirming word.
- Do not to believe every spirit that speaks to us, and we can check this spirit speaking to us by asking the voice we are hearing to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- If any word we are hearing does not line up with the written Gospel, we are not hearing from God. The Word of God is the infallible truth. As with every believer we meet, check the fruit of any person speaking into your life.^{vi}

With all of these concerns, why then, should we listen to the prophetic in our lives?

Let's go back to our infallible word and hear what God has to say about it through the Apostle Paul:

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesying. Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good. ^{vii}

WHAT CAN I RECEIVE FROM A PROPHET? AND WHAT IS A PROPHET'S REWARD?

This is what prophets bring – the power of the Holy Spirit, the anointing of God to come and build up God's people. The Spirit of God will come and a prophet will hear what is being said. A prophet will experience God's heart as God, the architect, wants us to receive the kingdom in our lives.

As with any member of the five-fold ministry, don't expect prophets to be perfect. Jesus Christ is the only one without sin,^{viii} but prophets are spokespeople for God. If they are real, they will, when under the anointing, have words for you that God wants to share.

THE KINGDOM...

The kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.^{ix} You see, if you are already following Christ, God says He is going to take care of your physical needs.^x Prophets will help you get in the direction of the kingdom, so that you can head in the direction God wants you going in, so that He can bless you.

By having Jesus Christ for yourself, you can have a direct relationship with the Holy Spirit and the Spirit will bring you guidance, comfort, love, and the way to go. However, sometimes you just need a confirming word, sometimes you desire help with that direction, sometimes you yearn to understand what you are supposed to do. This is when the prophetic can assist you in your way. If you combine the prophetic with teaching, it can bring God's architecture into your life so that you will know how to navigate.

MORE JOY...

More of the kingdom is about the reality of heaven being received into, or above the reality that is on the earth. This superior place comes down and with it comes righteousness, to be in right relationship with God; peace, the kind that passes all understanding; and the joy in the Holy Spirit: a joy that is at times, unspeakable, a joy that abounds with experiences from heaven. The joy of the Lord is our strength.^{xi}

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MORE PEACE...

When you experience words, especially when God will give you things that you have only shared with Him, or you obtain the wisdom of your situation, then, if you choose to trust Him in your life, you will walk into greater levels of peace. Your eyes shift from what is happening in your circumstances to what is happening to you from a heavenly perspective. It's very freeing to live this way – it's the abiding in Jesus place that God wants you to live in.

MORE POWER...

As you begin to operate in the things from God, and the Holy Spirit determines what you can have, you can receive more power – either directly from God for yourself, or at times, God will use a prophet to announce and give you that mantle. You see, the kind of power God wants to give you is miraculous power. It's the kind of power that opens up the possibilities for healing. It's the kind of power that opens the door to signs and wonders becoming an everyday part of life. God sometimes will use a prophet to unlock these areas in your life, and He uses His word to do this when He places revelation inside of us: the rhema (spoken) or logos (written) word.

MORE REVELATION...

A prophet may open things for you in the realms of the Spirit that will give you more experiences with God. A prophet may be led to give you a specific anointing they carry, or one God wants you to receive.

MORE LOVE...

Since God is love^{xii}, receiving more of Him will bring you into a supernatural place of encounters that fill you up with...

MORE PROTECTION...

By listening to God, through a prophet, and then, for yourself, you gain the wisdom to abide in Christ and by abiding in Christ, you come under the promises, covenants, and protection that God places upon people who belong to Him.

MORE BLESSING...

God's intention when He created you is that you would be blessed. Why? So that you will be a blessing to others.^{xiii} If you get in right relationship with God, and develop in the ways God is leading you, then, He blesses you with more. A prophet may be able to speak the edifying words that will help you find your way into those blessings that God wants to bestow on you.

MORE TRUTH...

The Spirit is truth^{xiv} and when God brings the Holy Spirit, you will receive truth. A prophet under the anointing of God can hear or see this truth and impart it to you. It might come as a confirmation about something you already know, or it might enlighten you to what the situation looks like from a heavenly perspective.

HOW DO I GET A PROPHET'S REWARD?

Scripture tells us that you reap what you sow.^{xv} The blessing of the Lord will make you rich.^{xvi} Our God can turn a curse into a blessing.^{xvii} It's God that does these things but at times, God will send a prophet as part of the ministry to accomplish His goals in the earth. So, if you go into the midst of a prophet or God sends one to assist you, if you receive this prophet, you can have access to what they have.

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How do you sow into a prophet?

Pray – become a prayer partner with a prophet, with your church, and with what God has you doing on the earth. When I was in a location that had fewer spiritual believers in the area, the Lord revealed to me that He literally had to pierce heaven to get His Spirit there. So, he sent me there, and sent angels as well, to bring what He wanted to share with people. In places where there is much faith, God can do much. Where there is little belief, it is harder for the anointing to get through.^{xviii} Your prayers pierce through heaven, and your prayers bind the enemy so that the one sent can do the work that the Lord wants accomplished by the one willing to go.

Donate your time to serve – be where God has you. Listen to what He wants you to sow into. Each part of the body of Christ has a specific assignment that God wants to use us for. If we listen to the Holy Spirit in where we serve, and how we serve, we will find balance.

Financial seeds – Money is kingdom ammunition. When you send someone into battle, would you send them without bullets to fight with? Money allows the ministry to go, grow, and build so that more people can be reached, more growth can occur, more things can be done. This ministry, in addition to prophesying and writing books that disciple people, sows into other ministries that are reaching children around the globe. When God says He will be the Father to the fatherless, He may want to accomplish His mission through you.

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- i Ephesians 4:11-12
 - ii 1 Samuel 10:10-12
 - iii Amos 3:7
 - iv 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - v 2 Corinthians 13:1
 - vi Matthew 7:20
 - vii 1 Thessalonians 5:16-21
 - viii 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - ix Romans 14:17
 - x Matthew 6:28- 30
 - xi Nehemiah 8:10
 - xii 1 John 4:16
 - xiii Genesis 12:2
 - xiv 1 John 5:6
 - xv Galatians 6:7-8
 - xvi Proverbs 10:22
 - xvii Nehemiah 13:2
 - xviii Matthew 13:54-58