

September 21, 2011

Prophecy Conference: A Summary

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Speakers: Doug Addison

Jamie Galloway

Prophecy: (from Webster's dictionary, modern edition) 1.) A prediction of a future event
2.) The inspired utterance of a prophet, held to be a declaration of divine will

Prophecy: (from 1828 edition of Webster's dictionary) A foretelling; prediction; a declaration of something to come. As God only knows future events with certainty, no being but God, or some person informed by Him, can utter a real prophecy. The prophecies recorded in scripture, when fulfilled, afford most convincing evidence of the divine origin of the Scriptures, as those who uttered the prophecies could not have foreknown the events predicted without supernatural instruction. (See 2 Peter 1)

Foretelling vs. Forth telling

Foretelling: Having insight from the Holy Spirit into a situation beforehand and declaring it

Forth Telling: Having prophetic insight from the Holy Spirit about something that has already happened or is occurring at the present, and declaring it

Example: Acts 2:16

At Pentecost, after the Holy Spirit descends, Peter explains that "This is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel." Joel had spoken of what was to come, the Holy Spirit, many years before. That was a *foretelling*. Peter's ability to identify what was happening as the fulfillment of the prophecy was *forth telling*.

Quote from St. Eusebius on Prophecy:

"For the apostle thought it necessary that the prophetic gift should *continue in all the church until the final coming...*" (emphasis mine)

Purpose of Prophecy

"He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."

(1 Cor 14:3)

A three-fold cord that cannot be broken!

Not judgment; not an ill or harsh word of correction...these speak of condemnation.

- 1.) edification – to strengthen or build up (Eph 4:29)
- 2.) exhortation – to encourage somebody strongly to do something (1 Thes 5:14)
- 3.) comfort – relief from pain or anxiety (2 Cor 1:3-4)

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Prophetic Phenomena

These are the ways in which revelations of the Holy Spirit are received: the tools with which a prophetic person *must* become familiar.

The more we study our gift, the better the operation of that gift becomes!

- 1.) Scripture – inspired by the Holy Spirit
- 2.) Dreams – a prophet is sometimes called “a dreamer of dreams” in Scripture
- 3.) Visions – internal (in the mind), external (seen outside of the person), and trances (as in Peter’s case in Acts 10:10)
- 4.) Translations – having our spirit caught up into another realm (John in the Book of Revelation)
- 5.) Transportations – bodily taken to another realm (Padre Pio)
- 6.) Impressions – inward witness of the Holy Spirit concerning something (Acts 15:28)
- 7.) Physical sensations – word of knowledge for healing; other sensations, such as tingling, warmth, trembling that indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit
- 8.) Verbal communication – when a spoken word, or word from a son, etc. “jumps” at us

How to Posture Ourselves to Receive Greater Degrees of Revelation from the Holy Spirit

- 1.) Peace – sleep and rest – watch the caffeine!
 - naps are ok!
 - take a day off...the Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath
 - “live in peace” – take time away from cell phones, TV, internet, and other distractions
- 2.) Meditation – on the Word of God
 - on prophecies spoken over us
 - Christian meditation is a “filling”, not an “emptying” (Psalm 1, Psalm 119:27)
- 3.) Waiting – on God
 - requires self-discipline!
 - start slow, with 5 minutes of quiet, and work up to 1 hour or more
- 4.) Prayer – especially praying in tongues
 - praying in tongues “enlarges our spirits for revelation”

What to do now?

The Holy Spirit will speak to us in many ways: scripture, images, etc.

How do we interpret?

- 1.) Understanding – from God, not us!
 - mature in understanding through reading and meditating on the parables (Matt 13)
Example: Amos, saw a “basket of ripe fruit” from the Lord, and the Lord said to him, “That’s right, because the time is ripe.” The understanding came from the Lord.
- 2.) Skill – matures from practice
 - learn what some images commonly mean in Scripture
Example: the number 7 commonly means “perfection”
the number 14 commonly means “double portion”

Use understanding and skill together, and PRACTICE!!

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How to Grow in the Gift of Prophecy

- 1.) Study the gift of prophecy!
 - Study the parables (Matt 13) and the seers in Scripture.
 - Take the time to read, study, and memorize Scripture as a venue to hear from the Lord.
- 2.) Educate yourself
 - DVD's, CD's, books on prophecy
 - Conferences, workshops
 - Study quantum physics, biology, and creation science as a way to become more familiar with God's ways
- 3.) Surround yourself with others who have this gift, who are growing in it
 - Through workshops, mentors
 - Observe leaders with the gift and emulate them
- 4.) PRACTICE!!
 - “Practice is laying a pipeline for God's rich oil to come through.”
 - Hit the streets: go 2x2 to the mall, talk to a stranger in the food store, or your seat companion on an airplane
- 5.) Have the stance of, “Lord, teach me! Train me!”
 - At all times, not just in quiet time
 - Listen to the still, small voice of the Lord. Ask Him to show you something, and pay attention to what it “felt like” when you heard Him. Did you actually feel a physical sensation; did it His words “sound” different? Make note! This is how we learn to discern His ways of speaking to us.

Spiritual Maturity

We need to seek spiritual maturity in the Lord. We do not want unhealed issues in us to taint either what we are able to hear from the Lord, or how we deliver it. Be careful to speak as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, in the same manner that He would speak. We need to be especially careful to not speak with anger or wrath. We need to abide in the peace of God. (See Numbers 20:2-12, Moses and water from the rock)

We need to also remember that the prophet is often rejected. We are not responsible for how others receive what we say, and we cannot let rejection get to us! If people will not listen, we need to intercede for them, receive God's healing, and walk in His peace. (See Ezekiel 3:27)

Final Notes

GOD IS GOOD! ALL THE TIME!

He wants to pour His abundant life out on us! He wants to baptize us with His goodness!

He wants to “pickle” us in His goodness!

Amen!!