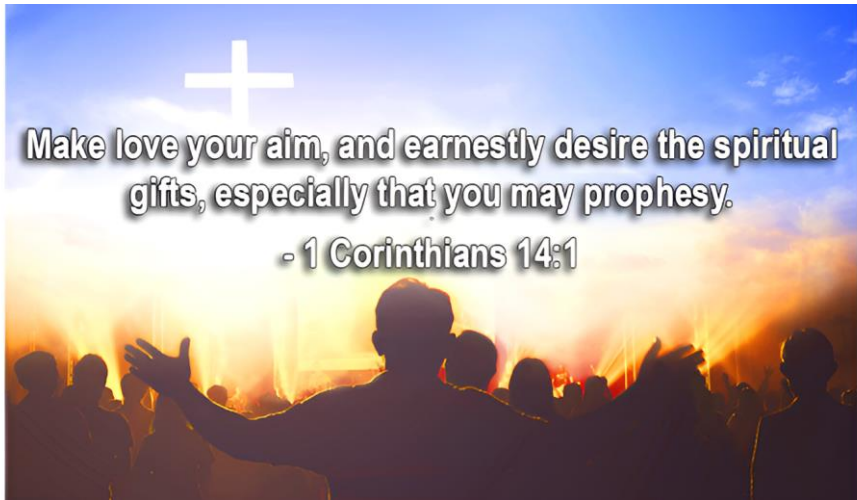


THE GIFT OF PROPHECY



Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

- 1 Corinthians 14:1

MAGDA FABER

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The Gift of Prophecy

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PREFACE

This is a book for those who are serious about God – serious about being used by Him in intercession and in prophetic ministry.

It is my privilege to know Magda Faber, The Authoress, personally and to be able to attest that she has written out of her personal knowledge of the Lord and her own experiences of His help and anointing in these areas of ministry.

I trust that those who desire to be used by Our Lord in the same way will take hold of the truths that Magda has shared and press in to HIM. There is impartation to be received from her writings.

Magda is a true prophetess and intercessor. I commend this book to all.

ROB LINDSAY

Pastor

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

In 1 Timothy 1:18 Paul speaks to Timothy regarding the prophecies that was spoken over his life. He told him that by these prophecies he must wage the good warfare.

I want to share with you the way I have practically experienced in my own life how to apply this scripture concerning prophecies that was spoken over my life. How do I do warfare with those prophecies? There are times that we get discouraged, when our circumstances are totally opposite to the word that was spoken. The way I engage in this warfare with the prophetic word is, to stand on the word that God has spoken no matter what. It works in the following three ways.

1. **GOD-WARD:**

I speak to God in faith (not in rebellion, not because I am throwing a tantrum). I will say: "Lord, this is what You have said. I remind You of your promises". Sometimes all hell will seem to break loose and it looks totally impossible that the word can ever come to pass. In these times I stand on that word, reminding God of His promises. I trust in His word. I look with eyes of faith unto Him, expecting that He will not fail me, but bring me into the fulfilment of that word. I often do not understand the way and the timing of God or how He will bring it to pass. There can be much conflict in the realm of the spirit, but in faith, I am taking a hold of God and say to Him: "I will not let you go until I see fulfilment of this word.

2. **SELF-WARD:**

I speak to myself. I encourage myself in the Lord. I repeat to myself what God has said. I say to myself: "Magda, God said". I refuse to believe anything else; it does not matter what I feel or think, or what people might feel or think, or what the circumstances might be. My confidence is in what

He has said. In times of extreme discouragement, when it did not look like anything can ever happen for me, God always in His mercy reminded me of previous times. He would ask me: "How did you step into fulfilment of my word for you in the past. Was it because you were in control of your circumstances, or was it because you did all the right things, or was it that your situation was perfect, or what did you do"? On reflection, I realised it was by faith, trusting God that He is able to bring me once again into the fulfilment as He did in times past. This always brought peace into my heart and I knew I could continue on my journey, pressing through obstacles, hindrances and impossibilities. My spirit knew that God spoke to me these words and that God would not fail me. The battle is often in the mind and the emotions, but God will come through in His timing. He has never failed me yet.

3. SATAN-WARD:

Satan is a destroyer. Satan will try everything to stop that word coming to pass. He will oppose and accuse you. He will discourage you with his suggestions. He will try to oppress you. All you do is, lift up your shield of faith and say to him: "Satan, God said...!" What God has said, settles the matter.

It works!

Many times it will be past the time of fulfilment according to our understanding, circumstances and mathematics. Just like Abraham and Sarah, who were over the age of childbearing and on top of it Sarah was also barren anyway. She could not have any children in the natural. BUT GOD SAID! This makes all the difference. One might go through a time where you will question the word that a person gave you, thinking it might have been a mistake. This should not be a threat to you. Anything that is from God will stand the testing. I often ask

myself: “Magda, do you desire that word that was spoken to come to pass.” If I can answer yes, I just keep on standing on it.

Another difficult part of the waiting for the fulfilment of the spoken word is that God might call you to die to even the fulfilment of that word. When there is true faith, you will go like Abraham to the mount of sacrifice, knowing that God can raise that thing from the dead! This is a difficult test, but a wonderful one, because everything that has gone this route, when God gives it back, you will never forget that it is by the hand of God that it came to pass.

I never allowed myself to be threatened by the possibility that someone might have made a mistake when they prophesied over me. I do not want for my life what God does not intend, I am not led by a prophecy, I am led by the Spirit of the Living God. As I walk with God, there is plenty of time that He can show me if something was really not of Him. I make sure not to just cop-out of a word, because I was too lazy to seek His face for my life. I press into God, seeking His face and allow Him to bring changes on the inside of me, to enlarge me as to enable me to receive what He has in store. I am not passive about a word spoken over my life, I will press on, pray through, walk in obedience as good as I can, and wait upon God to bring the word to pass. Some words might come to pass without a struggle, some God might just do for you to help you on your way, but there are things that will only come to pass as you walk it through with God. My longing is to do God’s will, I cannot go for less, therefore I want God’s assurance as I go along my journey in Him.

If something is truly a desire of my heart that sticks, it is often God’s desire for me, yet often I had to go via the Abraham-Isaac test, in order for God to cleanse me of any wrong motives and hidden agendas. Death to self is the best way to

sift out between fleshly desires or that, which is birthed by God's Spirit in one's spirit. Then it is still a choice, do I believe what God has said or is it merely mental assent. God often gives us a word that is beyond where we are. The word of God is often bigger than us. In the natural it can look like it is not the kind of thing that can happen with you. The reason for this is that you stand in the natural circumstances of your life and you view it with limited understanding. God is greater than your circumstances, greater than life itself. When He speaks great things into your life, the great things of His Spirit, it will remove your limited boundaries, if you will let Him. We are limited in our mindsets; God is not limited to our mindsets. He has a mind of His own, which is unlimited. He speaks according to His mind, not ours. He promises according to the richness of His glory in Christ Jesus, not our riches. God has a way to bring that thing that He has for us into reality.

Some things are easier to step into; other things will take a much deeper level of consecration to step into. When Joseph stepped into the reality of his dreams, he was no longer the man that was thrown into the pit by his brothers and sold by them. God worked greatness into his spirit. There are many things that are far beyond us, but God can make all things possible. The key is to be hungry for God and hungry for the fulfillment of what He has said.

In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul instructed Timothy not to neglect the gift that was given unto him. We learn from this verse that Timothy received gifts by the laying on of the hands of the presbytery and by prophecy. You can see the part that prophecy played in the impartation of gifts. The fact that Paul tells Timothy not to neglect the gift that was imparted to him shows us that we can have the gifts and not use them.

In 2 Timothy 1:6 Paul reminds Timothy to stir the gift that was imparted to him with the laying on of his hands. How does one

stir up a gift? The answer is by using it, by doing it, by exercising it. How do you stir the gift of prophecy? By prophesying. You open your mouth, expecting God to fill it. The Bible says we prophesy according to our faith. God will not fail you when you stand up and exercise your gift. You do not need feelings, you need to yield to the Spirit of God within you, and He is the giver of the gifts. Draw from the waters within. Words that come from God is like water on the dry, barren ground. Many times I have stood before a line of people, not having anything to say or anything to give. But as I stepped out in faith, expecting God to fill my mouth, drawing from the wells within my spirit, the words of life came forth and touched the people of God. When there is a flow of the prophetic (a spirit of prophecy) it is easy to prophesy. Any person that is filled with the Holy Spirit and sensitive to His flow can tap in and prophesy. This is very quick, you can go through a line of people so fast, giving everyone a word and you know it is God. You do not wonder or doubt, you do not hesitate, it is sharp and quick and accurate. When there is not a spirit of prophecy, a flow of the prophetic, it is harder to prophesy, you operate here from a deeper level of the prophetic. You need to stir the gift and once you get going, it goes deeper, because you open yourself up unto God to bring a flow. When one operates in the gift of prophecy on a consistent basis, you might often exercise the gift in this way.

In I Thes.5: 20 Paul teaches us not to despise prophesying.

One time I was ministering in Namibia and I poured out the prophetic word on many people. At one point I asked God why He does not do some visible manifestations in my meetings. I was questioning Him around the labour of prophesying! I did not at that moment appreciate the importance of the prophetic word and was wondering if I am not missing it somewhere along the line. I felt that maybe my meetings were inferior because it was mostly marked by the prophetic utterance (of

course I also teach the Word of God, etc). God led me to Hebrews chapter 2 verse 4. In this verse it points out that God bore witness to the preaching of the Word with signs, miracles, wonders and THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. I had not seen this before in the Scriptures and was so blessed that once again God gave me another valuable lesson out of a question that arose in my heart. Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit God shows us that He is present and that He manifests His grace to us in this way. I long for God to show up in every meeting, in some way as He chooses, to confirm the preaching of His Word, whether it is visible or not visible, as long as I know God is doing an eternal work in the hearts of people. When you move in the gift of prophecy, under the unction of the Holy Spirit, God is present to confirm that word.

In 1 Corinthians 12:10 the gift of prophecy is listed under the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 13 is like a sandwich filling between chapters 12 and 14. Love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We are admonished to demonstrate the gifts of the Spirit in the fruit of the Spirit. This does not make the gifts inferior to the fruit, but gifts without fruit is not the way God intends it to be exercised. Prophecy is given to build up the people of God whereas love is eternal, for God is love. We live in a time that we need the ministry of the Holy Spirit through His gifts. There will come a time when this time will be over and then love will still be. Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit; love is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. We must not make the gifts less, but we need to understand its place and its importance. I grew up with an understanding that if you have love then the gifts are unimportant. This is wrong. God chose it as a way to build up the Body of Christ. As long as the Body of Christ is on this earth in the present dispensation, we need the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 13 we read that gifts will fail, but love never fails. When we prophesy, we prophesy in part. Our

knowledge is also in part. There will come a time when that which is “in part” will no longer be, there will come a time when that which is perfect will come, then the “in part” will no longer be needed, it shall be done away with. But until then, we will operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We do not know everything, when a prophetic word is spoken over us, although it is in part, it lightens up something for us, to give us enough light to walk in the place of the unknown for the now situation. You see two time zones here. The one time zone is “knowing in part” and the other is “the perfect time”. The perfect time is when we will no longer just know in part. We are not there yet. We are limited. We need the limitlessness of the Holy Spirit in whichever way He chooses to break through our limitations and enlarge us as God ordains for us. In the time of knowing in part, we still need prophecy! There will come a time when the church age is behind us, then we will not need it. When we stand face to face with God, all things shall fall into its perfect place.

When one stands before a person and prophesy, one only knows in part. One does not know everything about everyone. God shows you what is applicable and necessary for the person. The person will still need the Holy Spirit after that word. Prophecy has a role to play in our lives, as it is one of the ways that God uses to speak to us, but our own walk with God is our own responsibility, to seek His face and hear His voice. Is the basis of hearing God and walking out what He speaks through prophecy to us. God shows what He wants to be revealed. When God reveals, He heals. He has a purpose and reason in all that He does. He is perfect and the works of His hands are perfect.

In 1 Corinthians 14:1 Paul admonishes the Corinthians to follow after love, to desire spiritual gifts, especially to prophesy. Prophecy builds up, encourages and exhorts. We should desire to prophesy, desire to operate in the gifts of the

Spirit. Follow after love, but also desire to prophesy. Be hungry for the spiritual gifts so that you can build up His church. This is one way that you can do it for Him. Programs are good and necessary, planning is good and necessary, but the spiritual gifts have its rightful place in the work of God and there is not a substitute for it where God intends its use. We are spirit beings and our spirits need to be built up, nourished, fed and to mature in God. Be zealous for the gifts so that you can excel in them for the edification of the Body of Christ to the glory of God.

In 1 Corinthians 14:3 Paul tells the Corinthians that he that prophesies speaks unto men. What does he speak unto men? The answer is words of edification, exhortation and comfort. When we speak in tongues, we edify ourselves. You can speak in tongues as a prayer language, your devotional language as a means of building up your faith. When a group of people come together for the purpose of intercession and they all pray aloud in tongues you do not have to operate then in the gift of interpretation, you can at some point if God so wants to, but the purpose here is to intercede together. The focus and the goal is intercession, and the burden of the Holy Spirit can be released by praying in tongues. When we are together in a meeting and different things are done, for example, praise and worship, preaching, and so forth, and it comes time to exercise gifts, if one speaks in tongues then, there should be someone who interprets the tongue so that all can be edified. If there is no one present in such a setting, the person who gives the tongues must then pray to God for the interpretation and give it.

When praying in tongues, the mind is unfruitful. Know what is the setting of a meeting and the focus and flow within that. In this manner the possibility of miss-using gifts can be limited.

In Ezekiel 37 we see that God put the prophet Ezekiel in vision in the valley of the dry bones. There was no life in these bones. God caused him to pass around and about the dry bones, observing what he sees. God asked Ezekiel if these bones can live whereto Ezekiel answered God that He knows! God commanded him to prophesy to the dry bones. The value of prophecy or let me rather say the heart of prophecy is that you call those things that are not as if they were. God gives the prophetic word to declare life in the midst of dead situations and that is why it takes faith to prophesy. You see one thing, but God says what He sees and that is a different picture. You have to believe what God is telling you in order to declare it and see it come to pass. Where there is nothing, the word of the Lord can declare that there IS something. These dry bones needed that prophetic word. It is a creative; life giving word that comes from the Source of Life, God Himself.

When Ezekiel prophesied over the dry bones, there was a shaking and a noise and a rattling – the bones started to respond! Things started to happen. The moment that a prophetic word goes out, God starts to work and things start to happen. Prophecy will always bring change into our lives, as it will stir us. You can choose to reject the word, you can choose to be careless about the word, you can choose to stay in your comfort-zone, you can choose not to change, but the prophetic word will bring stirrings that will lead to changes. You cannot afford to be stagnant in your walk with God. God is not dead, He is very alive and wherever God is, things will develop, things will happen. When the bones came together, the sinews and the flesh came up – the structure was in place. But there was more to come. Breath had to enter, so Ezekiel was commanded by God again to prophesy. Once the breath entered they stood on their feet, a mighty army.

In Ezekiel 37:11 you will see that the house of Israel said that their bones are dry and their hope is lost and that they were

cut off. That is all they knew, all they saw, and probably all that they expected. They did not see further than that. So God said to Ezekiel: “THEREFORE PROPHECY”... The key is PROPHECY. God wanted them to hear what He sees and what He has to say – through prophecy. They said their bones are dry and their hope lost, BUT GOD SAYS... They speak words of death; God speaks words of life. The key for the prophetic is that man says one thing, but God has a word of hope and life. The prophetic word is exactly needed in this – this is one of the reasons for prophecy, to take your focus off what is and focus it on what God says. That is why the prophetic word brings life and a future.

It always has amazed me about God. There were times in my own life, that I thought, this is it, I am finished and then God will say to me “This is not the end, this is the beginning”. Oh how that word has often lifted me up and given me fresh perspective. God does not have an end or a beginning, He is the End and He is the Beginning.

The prophetic word is exciting. Even in times when God has warned me that something is coming and at that moment, I saw it as a threat to my safe little corner. It imparted life into me, vision, direction and that prophetic word, often became a rope to hold onto in troublesome times, in my journey in God. Often a word that was spoken over my life rattled my cage, but it has always caused me to press deeper into God. To press in, is a necessity because I knew only God could lead me through. Until the breaking of the day, into the new things that He has spoken. It brings life and hope; there is no reason to give up. The bones are dry and the hope is lost, THEREFORE PROPHECY!!!

The word of God in Ezekiel 37 was a word not to stay in the graves but to come out of the graves. Often God has used the term “God will cause you to..” when I prophesied over

someone. That showed me that God was at work in a person's life and that it was just a matter of time for the person to start walking in a new way.

God is restoring the gifts of the Holy Spirit to His church in a fresh and simple way. The prophetic word is a forerunner. It runs ahead, paving a way for God to work according to His Word. That is why the prophet will prepare the hearts of people to welcome and receive the word so that they can contain the word and see it come to pass. The word of the Lord is a precious thing; we need to treasure it, nurture it until we see the fulfillment of it. One word from the mouth of God can change your life for eternity. The prophets of old prophesied about the coming of Jesus, they paved the way through those words they spoke about Him, they prepared the hearts of people, and in the fullness of time God sent His Son. Simeon stood with Jesus in his arms, he knew before the time that he would not die until he has seen the Christ. Then he spoke prophetic words over Mary and Jesus, words that prepared hearts and a way that followed for the fulfilling of what he said. Prophetic words will prepare your heart; they will pave the way for you. Every person that is born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit can prophesy. All will not stand in the office of a five-fold prophet, but all can prophesy.

In Romans 12:6 Paul says that we prophesy according to the measure or proportion of our faith. It takes faith to open your mouth and prophesy, especially when you stand before dry bones and God speaks words of life!

Prophecy can be a confirmation. Many times when someone prophesies it was already worked in the heart of the person receiving the prophecy. However, it is not always a confirmation. There are times that God speaks something into one's life, which is a creative word one has never even thought about. This word will be a seed within you that will start to

grow. Questions start to rise up in the heart and in hunger for God, there will be a pressing in to get the answers from God. The prophetic word will awaken one to a fresh and a new way in the things of God. You start to explore into what God is saying. You realise God has greater plans for you than you ever thought or knew. It is a creative word and it is calling those things that are not as if they were. It plants a seed in your spirit that as you nurture it, protect it, water it, allow it to grow, will eventually bring you into the place of fulfilment. The person, who prophesies over you, could have revelation that you have not stepped into as yet, it will extend your borderlines.

Prophecy can be conditional or unconditional. It depends on what God is saying. If He says you will do a certain thing when you meet His conditions in that area, then you have to obey and fulfil the condition. Then God will do His part. When you get a prophecy like that, start to pray and press into God. It might just be an adjustment or slight change in something that looks small to you, but you know it is there. It might just be your opinion, that you are holding onto and God wants you to let go of it.

Our walk with God is always conditional, but some things God will cause to fall into place without your effort, He will just do it for you because He is helping you. Some things are bigger than other things; it will take more and longer for you to walk into that. There are times and seasons on a prophecy. It is possible for a person that lives a consecrated life that as they prophesy, that God will honour that word and bring it pass quickly. The timing of a prophecy can also purely be because of His sovereign timing in those things for you. By obedience we can also hasten a word or slow it down for that matter if we are disobedient.

God gave me a prophetic word in 1996 and said to me that I will prophesy words that will come forth from His mouth that will come to pass not in a matter of years or months but in a matter of days. I love that word; I treasure it in my heart. I cannot evaluate in what measure this is taking place, God alone knows, but my heart is hungry to step into that place in God and the prophetic and see it come to pass in the fullness of what God has meant.

I have prophesied into many lives in different countries, I do not get feedback on most, but sometimes God will allow me to have a little glimpse and it will encourage me to keep on prophesying. I had many reasons over the years to stop to prophesy, but by the grace of God I have continued and trust that lives were eternally touched by the hand of God through the prophetic word. I long to walk in the depth and the fullness of this promise because it was spoken by the mouth of God. It will surely take more consecration, a deeper walk with God, a greater hearing and understanding of what God is saying, but at least I am on the way. Praise His Name.

Even going through the refining fires of God, being part of the process, to burn off the dross, so that just the purity is left. I never even thought about a word like that, I never knew you could walk in a place of speaking the word and it comes to pass within days. It was not in my experience or understanding, but God said it and that is how I learned, desired and pressing on for that. It was not a confirmation to me but a new seed of the word, the prophetic word. Some things will happen quickly for you, just purely because you are obedient to God.

Prophecy brings light. God wants us to be informed and prepared. The prophetic word will do that for you. I remember at one stage of my walk with God that when a season of doing things for God came to completion, I knew in my spirit that the

job was done, the assignment accomplished and I remember myself talking to God: "Mission accomplished – what's next?" And God would always show me the next course of events, not the detail, but enough so that I can press on toward the mark of the high calling. Many times I did not know what I was going to do at a place, but as I arrived at the appointed place, things just fell into place and in line with His will. There were many times, a season to stop and wait upon God in prayer, fasting and just waiting for Him to prepare my heart for the next season and the next assignment.

The waiting times were often accompanied with a wrestling within, not to get suck into a comfort zone, but to push through the invisible barriers and the obstacles in the natural. Passing through these times God always helped me to come to the breaking of the new day. Once this time of waiting was completed I knew exactly the next step to take. I always treasured the prophetic flow in my life, flowing with His River, with His movements, to stay close to Him and live a life given over to His plan.

The prophetic word also imparts wisdom to us. God shows us things to come and He also shows us how to handle things that is complicated. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. The testimony of the Lord makes us wise. Prophecy will stir and inspire faith. Whenever God speaks to you prophetically, it will do something for your faith. It helps you also to focus your prayers. Sometimes we find ourselves at a dead end, not knowing how to pray, the prophetic word will stir something in you, and if you take heed, you will know what to start pressing in for and how to pray. When one receives a prophetic word it does not mean that everything will happen at once. There is often a process one works through to see how things start to fall into place. Some things might even be removed in the process, as to make way for what God wants to do. Some part of the prophecy can be fulfilled, while

other things will take place much later. Some things that God says might sound to you just like a general statement, nothing predictive, but it will be a life principle to walk by for the rest of ones life on earth. Some things is a work that God does within you, some things are principles and foundations that God is laying in your life. There will be directives that are worked out in your spirit that will take you through your whole journey on earth. God knows what He is doing even when we do not understand.

When God speaks we start to see new things, and then we start to desire what He has for us, because just by speaking to us, it enlarges our hearts. What is spoken, because it enlarges you on the inside, will eventually become a word fulfilled. He leads one into larger places all the time. What enlarges in the spirit of man by God will bring enlargement in the natural.

Prophecy is a weapon against evil spirits. You wage the warfare of the good fight of faith with the words that comes from the mouth of God. (1 Tim.1:18).

Prophecy will bring life into dead situations. It will bring order. In Ezekiel 37 dry bones lived, a great army stood up, as one man. Often we experience negative things in and around us, prophecy helps us to concentrate on that which is positive. Prophecy has a way to tell us "It is going to be all right". Prophecy releases the life of God expressed in the words of God. God can see the wheels coming off, but He knows He can fix it if we turn unto Him. There is a miraculous flow in the prophetic flow. Miracles are released. If one receives a prophetic word and respond to it, one's life can never be the same again. When God speaks something happens on the inside. When God said "Let there be light, there was light" (Genesis chapter 1). The creative power of God is released through prophecy. Your walk with God and your ministry will

be enlarged through the prophetic word. It will make it bigger. God expands everything. In the prophetic flow, revelation pours forth, things that were tight, loosens up, doors open or close. Prophecy is from Spirit to spirit. One can teach what he has learned, but in the prophetic flow he can teach what he has never known as the Spirit of God brings forth revelation.

What can you do to see the prophetic word come to pass:

- **Every word of God is important.** Listen to it, write it down. One word from God can set you on course. One word out of His mouth is more worth than gold.
- **Keep the word in your heart.** When God speaks a clear word, it will stick with you.
- **Run with the word.** I like to write down my prophecies and go over them at times, ticking off what God has already done and underlining what still need to come to pass. If I cannot have it on tape, I will after the prophecy, just sit still before God and write down as much as I can remember.
- **Pray into your prophecy.** At the time of your prophecy you might think one understand everything, but as time goes on, one discovers God had something else in mind. We see from where we are at, in that moment God sees where you are going. As time goes on, things will start to fall into place. You start to get insight into what He said. As you see certain aspects of the prophecy comes into fulfilment; it encourages you to see the rest come to pass as well.

One time when I was in America, God said to me "...you have come to this nation not knowing what you came for. I will not leave you stranded, I will not disappoint you, and I will not

leave you hanging in the balance. But I will put the balance on the scales...” When I heard that, I hoped that God meant what He said concerning something which I had in my heart – it did not. As time went on, I started to get understanding and truly saw that His ways and His thoughts are not ours. God gave me that word not for what I hoped, but He knew I would need, those words for the next six months to hold onto to pull me through. It became my lifeline – in a season that look that I was stuck, stranded and disappointed – I stood on that word He gave me for dear life. I said to God over and over again: “You said, you will not leave me stranded, not disappoint me, not leave me hanging in the balance, but put the balance on the scales”. He did.

If I look at those words now, having a clearer understanding, the very fact that God said He will not leave me in the balance, meant that I will be in a time of hanging in the balance. If I understood it at that time, I probably would have run away. God knows why He tells us certain things. Remind yourself of the word God gave you, remind yourself and remind the devil when he comes to discourage you. Believe for that word to come to pass. That word might and often does look totally impossible of fulfilment and probably is. Some of those things you will not have the faith to walk in at the time the prophecy is given, but you can have the faith to receive the word itself as it is given. As you go through the process, faith comes from hearing God; it is a continual journey with God as He leads you through the obstacles and hindrances. He will speak to you words during the process so that you can hang in there until you step into the manifestation of the word in your circumstances.

I often find that just before I step into the fullness of the promise, that I face the greatest challenges in my faith walk in God. But as I push through, I come to a place where it is so easy to believe even the very thing that is impossible. Then it

is just a matter of the timing of God, to let my circumstances fall into exact place of what He said. I always say, "let your faith become ripe" so that you can pick the fruit. That word that was spoken has to come to the place of fulfilment in the natural. You have to take it out of the "atmosphere of the spoken word" and bring it into the "atmosphere of your circumstances on the earth".

Perseverance is an evidence of faith. We need to work through prophetic words given to us. Some of it you might like and some of it not. You can have a hundred prophecies over your life and forever quoting what God had said, but never see the fulfilment. God does not want you to stay in that place, you need "to work through" prophecies from God. A prophetic word often accompanies homework. You have some homework to do after you receive a prophecy. You are dealing with God. When He speaks there has to be a response. It is better to have one prophecy and see the fulfilment than to have a hundred unfulfilled. Your hunger must be for more of God. It is not wrong for you to desire that God will speak to you through the prophetic word, but God is a Sovereign Person, who chooses the way He wants to speak to us in different situations. When there is prophetic ministry, and you are present, it is an opportunity for you to be ministered to in this way. You might be in a meeting like that, but the person does not prophesy over you, then know God will come through to you in another way.

One of the meanings of prophecy from the Greek language is to "speak on behalf of another by divine inspiration". You speak a thing that can only be known by divine revelation, in other words there is no way you know in the natural, but through divine inspiration you speak forth words that comes from God. From the Hebrew language there is a meaning that it is the picture of a bubbling up or breaking forth under the sudden impulse in the counsel of God. Prophecy will make

known the mind and the will of God. Through the prophetic word God can guide, give direction, comfort, exhort and encourage. When someone prophesies under the divine inspiration of God in a meeting, lots of people can be edified at that moment just through one single gift that last a few moments.

The simplest explanation of prophecy is to hear what God says and to tell what He says. A prophetic word comes from the mind and heart of God and has as much authority as the written Word of God. You can stand on that word. If a prophetic word goes against the Word of God, then one can know it is not from God.

Judging a prophetic word has its place. We are dealing with human beings speaking for God. God is perfect, His gift is perfect, but the vessels are imperfect human beings. In 2 Peter 1:21 Peter says that prophecy does not come by the will of man, but through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

How does one receive a prophetic word to give to someone? It can come in different ways. It can come as a bubbling up, it just bubbles up and you let it flow through your vocal cords by speaking out what bubbles up. God can give you one word and as you step out on that one word, the rest will follow. He can give you one sentence, and as you step out on that sentence, He will be faithful to give you the rest. It is sometimes the stepping out that is the hardest! God can sometimes just show you the flow and direction He wants to take. You step out in what He gives you. It can come through inspired thoughts or a picture that you see. God can remind you of a scripture and as you step out on that scripture, He will show you the rest. Just step into the moment of what God shows you. As you step out, the rest follows. Do not be afraid to step out. God did not give us a spirit of fear; you have to break through it if it is holding you back.

There are different levels of prophecy and as you step out into that, it will have a different “feel” to it. When I prophesy to individuals in a line, it is a different level or experience in the prophetic for me than when I prophesy in my church or in a meeting. You can prophesy in general. In a general prophecy there will not be specific details. One can prophesy into a church, an area, a nation, and the nations. One can prophesy in general in all these situations, but there will be some specifics that will come through that is particular to the scope of the area into which you prophesy. The level of prophecy, which will carry most specifics, will be when you give a personal prophecy to a person.

When you prophesy direction into people’s lives, you operate on a deeper level of prophecy. The different levels of prophecy place different demands on the one who prophesies. The greater your consecration to God, the greater the level of your prophecy will be whether you prophesy over an individual or over a nation. The deeper you want to exercise in a gift, the deeper your consecration will have to be. If you prophesy over something that will happen for instance, “Great rain will fall in the coming months”. – You do not say where and when for the earth is big and so it can rain anywhere at any time within the coming months. There is no time limit to this, so if it rains greatly somewhere on the earth sometime, you can say that your prophecy has come to pass. That is good, but if you can say for instance, “Great rain will fall in South Africa, in East London during the month of June”, you are bringing forth very specific details.

You are prophesying at a much deeper level than just to say that great rain will fall in the coming months. If you prophesy that rain will fall in a dry area in a season that it never rains there at that time, and if it comes to pass, you will get the attention of the people, especially if you say which day as well

as the name of the area. It takes a greater hearing from God to give specific details. We need to grow in God, to go from just a general prophecy to where we can speak specifics into the lives of people. People will know that God is speaking through you if you give them exact details and it comes to pass, or things that only they know of and you are speaking that out. It will change their lives; they will fall on their faces and worship God. God will receive glory.

We need to live a lifestyle of waiting in the presence of God, living in His presence. The closer your walk and your hearing is to God, the more detail He can give us. In intimacy with God, He will speak things to us and uses us to speak out those greater things. Detail and accuracy is a demand placed upon us if we want to go beyond the "normal status quo". It will require new steps of faith, when one starts to speak accurate detail into the lives of people. God has much more for us. In God you will never reach a limit, for God is not limited. Lets go for the more, so that His name may be glorified more. Do not become stagnated, press on in God, it is an ongoing journey, not a dead end street. Let us enter into the depths of greater revelation in the prophetic. You have to stay in closeness to God; it is a constant thing. Do not allow distractions that would pull you away from what God wants to do in you and through you.

There are people crying out for a word from God therefore, we need to be willing for God to use us. Allowing His dealings and workings within. So that we can hear accurately and have the faith and boldness, to step out and touch lives for God through the word of prophecy. God does not just want to use a few people; He wants to use His church. God wants to raise up the dry bones to stand up an exceeding great army.

Is prophecy always positive?

As a general rule yes. Yet God does not view things as we do. God knows where we are heading. God has something good to say to everyone. God's heart is to encourage and build, not to destroy. Yet God can speak a word into an area of your life that needs attention. God can give a word that sounds negative to you, but it is a preparation for changes in your life and or circumstances.

Paul knew that he was bound for Jerusalem and that hardship was awaiting him. That did not seem like a "positive" word, but he was ready for what was to come. God will speak to us, that which we need to hear. Take for instance when God chastens us, to us it looks negative, but it is not, it is for our own good. There are things in us that are imperfect, which need change. God's Spirit is not a wrong and harsh spirit, He is a Spirit of Truth and Love and it is his love that will uproot what is wrong, so that He can plant that which is good. God will not embarrass you in front of people. He will speak in a way, that only you will know what He is saying and He will give you room to repent.

Prophecy can stir your nest, you might not like it, but it will always cause you to step into the greater things He has for you.

PS: Some of the thoughts on levels of prophecy and what prophecy does for us, I based on the book "Prophecy" of Wallace Heflin, Calvary Camp, Ashland, Virginia, USA. He passed away in 1996. He was my pastor and mentor in 1996 during my stay there. He is the brother of Ruth Ward Heflin. He greatly impacted my life in the short time that I sat under his ministry.

THE GIFT OF PROPHECY: The gift of prophecy is one of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit referred to in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. God is using this gift to draw His people closer to His heart, as it is a gift that reveals the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to us. This booklet is a short journey on sharing some of the things I have learnt about the gift of prophecy. May it bless and also bring some answers for you.

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