

GOD IS ALWAYS SPEAKING:
A PROPHETIC TRAINING MANUAL

Second edition

by **Sharon
Gonzales**

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A Prophetic Training Manual*

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This manual is a basic training guide for activating the prophetic gifts and developing strong prophetic teams. Of supreme value is knowing the heart of God through the prophetic gifts. Love as the motivator for the prophetic gifts is emphasized. The foundation for this guide is Jesus, whose testimony is the Spirit of Prophecy (Revelation 19:10).

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Edited and Published by
International House of Prayer Moscow
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Letter to Prophetic Leaders and Their Teams

Dear Instructors and Facilitators,

Blessings, as you step into God's invitation to lead His children in the way of intimate conversation with Him. Close, personal conversation with God is the purpose of the prophetic gifts. Our dear God wants to be known and loved. He has installed His "conversation lifelines" – gifts of prophecy – into our spirits so that we can understand His mind, His heart, His plans.

Through this course, God will recreate the students' view of Him, open their heart and mind to the joys of His communication with them, and grow their love relationship with Him. As the instructor, you have the privilege of partnering with God's heart for His children. The most important thing you can do is seek His heart and word for your students.

Here are suggestions that will add to the life-giving experience of this course, for you and your students:

- First, it is important that you were previously trained by this course and spent time practicing your prophetic gifts, before teaching it.
- As an instructor, you can be sure to cultivate the learning environment by encouraging loving meditation upon scripture and developing intimacy with God through worship.
- It is easy for us to become captivated by the gifts instead of being fascinated with God. One of your roles is to turn the students' focus back to God.
- The ways of God's leadership discovered in the Song of Solomon chapters is the foundation for how we want to treat our students, who are God's children.
- There is much to learn by our natural intelligence. However, the most important ingredient in learning is receiving from God's spirit. In this course, learning by the spirit is to be cultivated. One of your key roles is to be a facilitator of God's spirit, allowing for impartation spirit to spirit.
- Operating in our prophetic gifts is a spiritual activity. Students need safe opportunity to practice their spiritual prophetic "muscles." We want them to feel at ease and to move beyond their intellectual boundaries. One of the best ways to do this is to teach each lesson first by giving the information, and immediately follow with practice sessions.
- I like this saying "When I hear it, I forget it. When I see it, I remember it. When I do it, I know it."

If you have questions, you can speak with the instructor who trained you by this course. Or you may contact me by email, sharon@lifeas1.com.

Thank you for saying "yes" to the Lord.

Prayer for you: *Father God, I ask You for abundant supply of Your spirit to your leader who is reading this. Holy Spirit, release the spirit of prophecy, the testimony of Jesus, and make it tangible. I bless this leader and students to experience Your life-altering presence. God, shift lives*

Class 1. Prophecy is Loving God and Others

with Your life and wisdom. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Amen.

By His grace, peace and love,

Sharon Gonzales

I. TEACHING NOTES

Class1. Prophecy Is Loving God and Others

A. Everyone can prophesy

Everyone with a living relationship with Jesus and Holy Spirit can hear God, receive communication from Him, and share it with others, speaking to men by inspiration of Holy Spirit.

"And it shall be in the last days," God says, "That I will pour forth of my Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2: 17-18).

B. Three main functions of prophetic gift

Prophecy is simply encouraging, exhorting, and comforting people by turning them into what God has for them.

"But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and comfort." (1 Cor. 14:3).

1. Edification- encouragement.
 - Confirming what God is already speaking to the person; builds up the person's hearing relationship with God. It gives faith to move forward.
2. Exhortation- to invite, to call near, to call up into their destiny.
 - To see through His eyes and see from a different perspective, from a place of hope, life, advancement.
 - The gift is for revealing the treasure. Finding the treasure. Not to give insight on the dirt in the field. We want to call people UP to the treasure that God has placed in them.
 - Not condemnation, not criticism. Not teaching. Don't want to choke them with too much- simple, not too many details. Not explain.
3. Comfort: to bring God near to someone, to cheer up.
 - You become aware of the person's pain, their trials, and God speaks through you into the situation.
 - He acknowledges their perseverance and faithfulness. He lets them know that He is always close.

C. From heaven's view, the prophetic gifts and spirit of prophecy is about the revealing of God and His heart. God gives us prophetic gifts by His Spirit of Prophecy because He wants close relationship.

1. God's goal is close relationship, through the knowledge of Himself, through the revelation of Himself.
God does not want to simply impart information through the gift of prophecy, but rather the goal of all **prophetic ministry is to draw us into a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Body.**
2. We are designed to live by the knowledge of God – John 17:3 “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
The gift of prophecy is an invitation into a deeper relationship with Jesus and His Bride. “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold [participate in] My glory which You have given Me” (Jn. 17:24).
3. Any prophetic word is an invitation into conversation with God. Whether you are ministering the word, or receiving it personally.
Prophetic ministry draws people to God. It draws the prophetic minister to God!

D. Our intimate relationship with God is the single most important ingredient for cooperating with Holy Spirit in His gift of prophecy

Songs 4:10a “How beautiful is your love, My sister, My Bride. How much better is your love than wine...”

What is the best way to develop the prophetic gifting given to me?

1. **It is in our intimate pursuit of God** that we will naturally know Him through the prophetic spirit.
 - Intentional love, loving obedience, conversations, prayer, developing our close relationship with Him.
2. **Know His Nature.** The Spirit of Prophecy and the Written Word will reveal God's nature to us.
 - What we know of God is most important thing.
 - What we think of Him – our belief system about His character – is most important. It will affect everything in our life.
3. **We need both.**
 - If this is not happening in someone's life, and they are practicing their prophetic gift based on the gift alone, this is not wise.
 - Why is this not wise? Connecting with the information and not the person of God.

E. What is the gift designed to do?

1. To reveal God's nature. To encourage. Freedom. To reveal God's purpose in their lives.
2. Gift is a tool which can behave like a lifeline. Or a funnel. Or a conduit. Between you God and the person.
 - Connecting to the spirit of Prophecy, you, and the person or situation to pour out real life message.
 - The tools do not work without relationship, love, anointing - what gives the life vs relying on my best words or best ability to figure it out.

F. How does the gift of prophecy function?

1. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant." (1 Cor. 12:1).
 - The divine combination—1st and 2nd commandment love, and gifts.
 - Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.'"
2. **Love.** Paul discusses the diversity of gifts.
 - 1 Cor. 12: 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you **a more excellent way.**
 - **1 Cor. 13: 2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but **have not love, I am nothing.**
 - **1 Cor. 13: 8a Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail...**
 - **1 Cor. 13: 11** When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; **but when I became a man, I put away childish things.** [He is speaking of the mature way to administer the gifts, to walk as a believer.]
3. **1 Cor. 14:1,3 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. 3 But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.**
 - Paul is saying, the mature way to minister in the Holy Spirit gifts is to be grounded in love.
 - To be motivated by love for God and love for people.
 - When we develop our gifting by growing in love, and growing in the skills of prophetic gifting, Then we will be able speak life into people.

G. Application

- What experience have you had with the prophetic gifts?
- Have you experienced someone praying for you and sharing a prophetic word for you?
- Was the experience in line with the key characteristics we taught in this session?

Class 1. Prophecy is Loving God and Others

- How do you foresee God meeting you through this weekend course?

Class 2. Personal Connection With the Spirit of Prophecy

In this session, we will:

Discover how to personally connect with the Spirit of Prophecy for yourself, especially as you meditate upon Scripture

Discover how to experience Scriptures as Bread, Meat, Water, Wine for you.

- 1) The Spirit of Prophecy is a Man. The Spirit of Prophecy is the Man Christ Jesus, who He is, what He has done, what He will do.
- 2) The Spirit of Prophecy is about this Man. The Spirit of Prophecy is: the evidence of who Jesus is. Rev 19:10c.

A. Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus, which is the revelation of God's heart for His people

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10)

1. "Testimony" defined: evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something; certifiable, objective evidence to establish something as true. The truth claims are about God and the revelation of Himself. The content of biblical revelation, whether general or special, stands as testimony to its Giver. The testimony of God reveals and bears witness to God's glory and supremacy. The testimony of God reveals His will and heart.
2. Who is God is the testimony of God. His testimony is revealed through history. We behold the beauty of Jesus.
3. We could try to summarize God's intentions with Ephesians 1:3-10, which is a testimony of who Jesus is and His actions:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the

times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.” (Ephesians 1:3-10).

4. The testimony of Jesus is the unfolding of God’s plan for mankind from beginning to end. (Students may see additional notes “Class 2A. Testimony of Jesus is God’s Plan for Mankind.”)
5. We are preparing the way for the Second Coming, Unto the Fulfillment of the Completion of the Testimony of Jesus.
 - Jesus’ plans are becoming manifest on the earth, through His Living Body and through man. By relationship, for intimacy, for partnership.
 - Revelation 19:6-9 “I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”
 - What is the testimony of Jesus in this verse?
 - Holy Spirit, show me how Jesus is “speaking” in this situation. How is He influencing the story? Reveal the parable, the mystery. Jesus is not hidden, but revealed.

B. The testimony is touchable. Because He is real, a Living Man, Son of Man, son of God

1 John 1:1-4 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.”

1. Life made manifest - 1 John 1:1-4
 - Make plain; to display; clearly revealed
 - Clearly apparent to the sight or understanding; obvious; easily noticed or perceived
 - Prove beyond doubt

To reveal the invisible man, and make Him visible, known. He seems invisible because we can’t see Him. Once our eyes are conditioned to see that “condition” then we see Him, and discover He was always there. It was us who couldn’t see or hear.

2. Touchable Man Jesus – He ascended to heaven, sent Holy Spirit, and now He remains in us.

- The Spirit of Prophecy is speaking in this passage. Holy Spirit is declaring that Jesus can be made touchable and real to you and me, now. This is part of the testimony of who Jesus is. This is the power of prophecy—the gifts of prophecy serve to make Jesus more real to us.
- Expect to see Him, behold Him, the manifestation of Him.
- It's how we are created to live and function.
- He doesn't expect us to live without seeing Him and embracing Him.
- He is the God who wants to be known. It Is His posture. 1 John 1:1-3 God, John 17:22 I revealed Myself.
- This is who I am. – Revealer of who I am. As they receive who I am, then we become one, there is agreement. When you see Me and agree with me, there is unity, oneness, love.
- This changes us. It changes our life. This revelation of who he is as touchable is a big shift for you and me!

C. How you can personally meet the Spirit of Prophecy in Scripture¹

Let's talk about how you can personally meet the Spirit of Prophecy in scripture. To meet the Man Christ Jesus, in scripture, by the Spirit of Prophecy, is our Now inheritance.

To touch Jesus in this way, to know Jesus through this method, is a significant lifeline for us.

1. Luke 24 Jesus ignites a burning in our hearts about who He is. Luke 24 is a story about the Spirit of Prophecy burning in the Word.

"13 And then, that very day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, which was about [a]seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. 15 While they were talking and discussing it, Jesus Himself came up and began walking with them. 16 But their eyes were [miraculously] prevented from recognizing Him. 17 Then Jesus asked them, "What are you discussing with one another as you walk along?" And they stood still, looking brokenhearted... 27 Then beginning with Moses and [throughout] all the [writings of the] prophets, He explained and interpreted for them the things referring to Himself [found] in all the Scriptures.

28 Then they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as if He were going farther. 29 But they urged Him [not to go on], saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening, and the day has just about ended." So He went inside to stay with them. 30 And it happened that as He reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were [suddenly] opened [by God] and they [clearly] recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking with us on the road and opening the Scriptures to us?" 33 They got up that very hour and went back to Jerusalem..."

¹ Reference: "Prophetic Activation Groups, July 2017" by International House of Prayer-Kansas City.

2. Luke 24 is a story about the Spirit of Prophecy burning in the Word. They recognized Him when the eyes of their hearts opened to the reality of the Man Jesus. The fruit of discovering the hidden realm of Jesus' testimony in scripture is fire on our heart. Our inner man becomes burning hot when we touch the testimony of Jesus.
3. See Him in Scripture, by the Spirit of Revelation, the Spirit of Prophecy. "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). Because He is Living Word.
 - 1) Creation — (John 1)
 - 2) Adam & Eve — (Genesis 3:15) / [Also Cain & Abel - Lamb acceptable]
 - 3) Noah — Ark — one door, one salvation, one boat (Genesis 7:12-16)
 - 4) Abraham & Isaac (Genesis 22:9-14) God will provide, substitute
 - 5) Moses — Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:3-13). Without Blemish; Male; Substitute; Blood on door posts
 - 6) Jesus — Crucifixion. Redeemer; Lamb of God; Savior (Mark 15:37-39)
 - 7) Jesus Christ: Bridegroom; King; Judge; Ruler (Rev. 18:5-8)
4. Holy Spirit wants us to ask Him for help with this. Question to ask:
 - Holy Spirit, please show me the evidence of Jesus in this scripture passage.
 - Please show Me the Man. Let me touch Him.
 - Holy Spirit, show me how Jesus is "speaking" in this situation. How is He influencing the story?

Class 2A. Testimony of Jesus IS God's Plan for Mankind²

Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus, which is the revelation of God's heart for His people

1. It can be individual or corporate. It is what He wants to reveal in the "now".

«And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Revelation 19:10)

2. The testimony of Jesus is the unfolding of God's plan for mankind from beginning to end. There are four phases to this testimony. Two are complete; one is unfolding, and one is yet to come.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Ephesians 1:3-10)

- A. Phase One** – God contemplates the nature of man. The Testimony of Jesus began before the world was even created. God created man with the ability to feel, to give and receive love and the ability to choose. Jesus was our provision before creation, before the fall.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. Gen 1:26

Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love... (Ephesians 1:4)

1. God gave both the freedom to choose and provision for the choice.
 - In His decision to create man, God gave him freedom to choose—He wanted voluntary lovers. He wanted man to be free to choose His love. In doing this, He also gave men the opportunity to choose not to love Him but to reject Him.

² Excerpt from "Prophetic Activation Groups," by International House of Prayer-Kansas City, July 2017.

- He knew that men would choose sin; yet, because He loved us, He made a way for us to be redeemed and to live in the fullness of His life and purpose for us. Jesus was the provision for our choice.
- 2. The testimony of Jesus is that He loved us before the foundation of the earth. That is why He is known as the Lamb slain from the foundations of the earth. He wrote us into the storyline. ***Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will... (Ephesians 1:5)***

B. Phase Two – God Created Man and Chose a People - This begins and continues through the completion of the Old Testament. The pre-creation purposes and desires of God are now manifest in the creation of man.

1. Adam: Made for Fellowship. Adam had a history of fellowship in the garden (commune with Him in love/intimacy, Gen. 2:8). He was made to rule when God said, "Let them have dominion" (partner with Him in purpose/assignment, Gen.1:26).

- Adam and Eve's fall and the first redemptive promise of "the slain Lamb."

2. Abraham: Friend of God. Abraham was known as a friend of God (commune with Him in love/intimacy; Gen. 12, 18). He also was the father of Israel the nation, and of the Messiah (partner with Him in purpose/assignment, Gen. 12).

- Messianic promise of the "slain lamb" through whom the nations would be blessed.

3. Israel the Nation: Dwelling Place for God. God desired Israel as a community to dwell in (commune with Him in love/intimacy, Is. 57:15). He also desired them as a people to reveal Himself through (partner with Him in purpose/assignment, Jer. 4:2). He destined Israel to be a people the Messiah will deliver and dwell among forever (Jer. 32:36).

- Types and shadows of the Messiah throughout the Old Testament (sacrificial system, temple, feasts, etc.)
- The revelation of the Messiah in his first coming as the Suffering Servant who would die for our sins (Isaiah 53)
- The revelation of the Messiah who will return as King, set up His kingdom, and rule the earth (Zechariah 13:8,16)

4. The Company of the Faithful: These are the ones (prophets, priests, kings, ordinary people) who held to the testimony of Jesus even when the nation backslid. They were like David and Samuel who fulfilled all their purposes in their generation. They heard the eternal song of the testimony of Jesus and connected their hearts to it.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a

homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Each generation had a part to play in the unfolding of the Testimony of Jesus in the Old Testament. The “cloud of witnesses” calls us to prophesy into our generation and call them forth as a continuation of that testimony.

C. Phase Three – God Became a Man - This is where the Lamb slain from the foundations of the earth took on human flesh and dwelt among us.

Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace... (Ephesians 1:5-7)

1. It is here that the eternal Son takes on flesh, fulfilling the role He chose before the foundations of the earth. He is the “sacrificial lamb” in both life and death as Paul makes clear in Philippians 2:6-11.

Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:6-11)

2. Jesus came to make the Father known and to restore men to God.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” (John 14:7-11)

3. The message of Jesus (proclamation) and His methodology (demonstration) reflected His vision and mission.

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" 26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. 27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new doctrine is this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." 28 And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee. (Mark 1:25-28)

4. Jesus was the fulfillment of the eternal promise—the slain Lamb—crucified on the cross and raised from the dead

- He revealed the Father's heart and fulfilled the Old Testament Messianic prophecies.

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. (I Peter 1:20-21)

5. His death and resurrection led to birth of the Church as His Bride. She is to carry the Testimony of Jesus in the present evil age. Peter echoes this theme in the second message he preached in the book of Acts.

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-21)

6. This is where the testimony of Jesus is unfolding today and where we have a part. We live before a great cloud of witnesses. We live for another day.

D. Phase Four – The God/Man Returns to Establish His Kingdom and Rule With the Father - As Paul says, this is "the summing up of all things in Christ."

Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (I Corinthians 15:28)

1. This is the sweeping end-time drama of the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls of wrath. It is the return of the King to deliver Israel, execute vengeance on His enemies, reward the righteous, and establish His millennial reign.
2. This is where our mandate of raising up end-time messengers finds its fuel. The focus in this aspect is the end-time prophetic movement.
 - Seven Thunders: the unfolding of the Revelation 10 messages
 - Two Witnesses: the point of the arrow of a prophetic, victorious church
3. Characteristics
 - Revelation
 - Power to bind and loose
 - Anointed to testify to the Word with power for signs and wonders
 - Grace and love for martyrdom
4. We are preparing the way for the Second Coming, Unto the Fulfillment of the Completion of the Testimony of Jesus.

E. Now, we step back into today and take our place in our part of the unfolding of His Testimony in our day and time

1. He called you before the foundations of the earth to this generation for such a time as this. How then are we to live?

And all these (Old Testament Heroes) having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 11:39-12:2)

2. What does this look like? It is embracing the Revelation 5:10 calling.

And they sang a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Revelation 5:9-10)

Class 3. God is Always Speaking. His Name is Revelation and Living Word

A. God is always speaking because He is communication. He is Living Word! He is Revelation

1. God Is Communication- Living Word, Speaking Word, Testimony of God=Word.
Jesus is the Word made Alive.

He is ***Living Word, Speaking Word, Testimony of God***

Let's read John 1:1-4 with "Living Word" substituted for every reference to Jesus.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Living Word, and the Living Word was with God, and the Living Word was God. Living Word was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Living Word, and without Living Word nothing was made that was made. In Living Word was life, and the Living Word was the light of men.

John 1:1-4 with "Speaking Word" substituted for every reference to Jesus.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Speaking Word, and the Speaking Word was with God, and the Speaking Word was God. Speaking Word was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Speaking Word, and without Speaking Word nothing was made that was made. In Speaking Word was life, and the Speaking Word was the light of men.

John 1:1-4 with "Testimony of God" substituted for every reference to Jesus.

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Testimony of God, and the Testimony of God was with God, and the Testimony of God was God. Testimony of God was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Testimony of God, and without Testimony of God nothing was made that was made. In Testimony of God was life, and the Testimony of God was the light of men.

2. God's essence is communication

- Living Word. Everything that exists comes from His words!!
- When we speak by Holy Spirit, we join with our Creator!
 - He wants to be in relationship together, to communicate with each other, to fellowship. He wants conversation!
 - He wants to share Himself with us, and He wants us interacting with what is on His heart.

B. Always revelation God. Always know Me

1. Always revealing Himself
 - **Know Me.** This is eternal life: to know You, the only true and real God, and to know Him, Jesus Christ. (John 17:3)
 - **See My Glory.** I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name. (Exodus 33:19)
2. Jesus tells us about Himself

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)
3. The Testimony of Jesus
 - Throughout ages
 - The testimony of Jesus is the unfolding of God's plan for mankind from beginning to end. There are four phases to this testimony. Two are complete; one is unfolding, and one is yet to come. (See IHOPKC manual).
 - In Him all things consist. All things coming into Christ.
 - *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* (Revelation 19:10b)

C. Looking for Agreement on the Earth

1. *2 Chron. 16:9a For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.*
2. John 1 seeking agreement- he came to men. But some would not receive Him.

John 1:10-12 He was in the world and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
3. Receive and agree with who He. This is where it starts. Who do you say that I am?

D. Testimony – Who do you say that I am? ³

1. Perspective: Everything is always about His love and Him revealing an aspect of His nature
 - The prophetic expression helps move us toward Jesus, into Him.
 - The prophetic word brings us into agreement with God.
 - Coming into agreement with Him means we agree with what He is doing and saying. His plans and purpose. His thoughts and perspective, not ours.
 - When we agree, then we see God's purposes becoming alive in us and around.

³ Reference: Michelle Seidler, www.michelleseidler.com

2. Perspective: It starts with His nature, seeing Him rightly. We cannot clearly understand or have correct perspective of any situation apart from starting with who He is. When we understand His nature it helps us to go forward into understanding:
 - Who He is
 - What He is doing
 - Why He is doing it.
3. Prophesying His nature. Revealing and Representing God's Nature.
 - This is the most vital part of prophecy.
 - When we prophesy we encourage people to see who they are in Christ.
 - We restore them to **Who God is** and who they are in God.
 - Prophetic people proclaim Who God is for people.
 - In order for those words to be authentic they must be backed up by our experience of His essential nature in our own lives.
4. "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelations 19:10)
 - We prophesy from the same place of revelatory insight as our current experience of God.
 - We all have a testimony of what God is like to us on a consistent basis.
 - Our mouth speaks of what our heart knows to be true.
 - God is good. He is loving, kind, generous and compassionate.
 - He does not lie, so what He says about Himself is the whole truth and fit for prophecy.
 - He is everlastingly unchanging and consistent. He is good news.
5. Prophecy is the proclamation of the steadfast nature of God.
Therefore the way that we move in the gift of prophecy must be consistent with His Name and Nature. What we think about God is the most important issue in the world to us. (*Matthew 16:15 He said to them, But whom say you that I am?*)
 - A true perspective on God's nature is essential in our prophesying.
 - It is important then that we upgrade our image of God within our own hearts.

Principle: I want discover the nature of God for myself, and develop that revelation into an actual relationship experience. I want to prophesy out of that place of internal relationship and truth.

6. Prophecy can help build people's faith by revealing more of God's nature to them.
 - It is an ongoing call to intentionally explore the heart of the Father for all people and all circumstances.
 - To properly release the prophetic gift in our lives, we must remain in the love of God.
 - We have to learn how to see people the way God sees them.
 - Then we need to learn how to speak to them the way God would speak to them.
 - Our interaction with people should cause them to understand and appreciate who God is and who He wants to be for them.

Class 4. God Desires Communication With us

A. He uniquely created each of us with the ability to be in conversation with Him

- He wants us to be in agreement with Him, to be His sons and daughters on the earth, in like manner as Jesus.
- Therefore He will give us the ability to communicate with Him.
- If we cannot communicate with someone, then it is impossible to be in agreement with that person.

B. He wants conversation with us because He desires partnership

1. Partnership with God:

- It is active agreement with God. Agreement can be with our minds, with our mouths, with our heart intentions, with our activities.
- When we understand God's heart, His plans, what HE is doing, how He is wanting to be known (what character or nature HE is presenting to people), then we can actively agree with Him. When we agree, we are partnering with Him to bring forth the knowledge of God.
- Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the **Lord**, As the waters cover the sea."
- We are God's sons and daughters on the earth who partner with God to bring Habakkuk 2:14 into reality.
- We hasten the glory of God Filling the earth.

2. The Spirit of Prophecy and the prophetic gifts are the substantial means to hastening the release of the knowledge of God.

The gift of prophecy will:

- grow us in love.
- Release His life.
- Teach us how to agree with Him.
- The prophetic is calling people to come into agreement with God, and thus bringing forth the things of heaven onto earth to establish the kingdom.
- Who is God? And how does he feel about His children? How does He treat His children?

3. The knowledge of God. As we have learned during our previous classes together: God is always speaking, speaking about Himself!

- *"Because I want you to know Me!"*
- *For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10c*
- *The prophetic gift is given to us to tell us about God.*
- *The Spirit of Prophecy imparts grace to our hearts to receive the treasures of the knowledge of God..*

4. Jesus' partnership with Father.

Jesus, while on earth, lived by the Spirit of Prophecy. He lived in 100% agreement with Father, at all times.

It is by Living Prophecy that He was able to say these statements to His Father in the garden:

* John 17:6-8/NHEB I revealed your name [revelation, understanding] to the people whom you have given me out of the world. They were yours, and you have given them to me. They have kept your word [agreement]. Now they have known that all things whatever you have given me are from you, for the words which you have given me I have given to them [conversations], and they received them [agreement], and knew for sure that I came forth from you, and they have believed that you sent me [agreement].

* John 17:20-21/NHEB Not for these only do I pray, but for those also who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that you sent me. [Full agreement; It's about intimacy. Intimacy with God breeds faith and belief in the earth.]

C. Let's grow in ways that will help cultivate the quality of the conversation

1. Father uniquely crafted each of us with special receptors to tune in to Him and to receive communication. Paths that cause us to be face to face with Him (see Ps 16 passion Bible, presence and face.) We need to agree with how He made us. How He made me.
2. For example, when accessing Online—You need a strong Wi-Fi signal. How do you strengthen your signal reception? The waves are out there... In all fullness... How to capture, receive, process
3. Recognize how God speaks to you and respond to Him.
 - Since God is always speaking, always communicating, how does He communicate with You?
 - How is He communicating with You this season?
 - What is He saying about Himself, which will draw You closer to Him?
 - How does He like to communicate to you about Himself? How does He like to communicate to you about you?

D. Discover how you hear God, pay attention and ask questions.

- God can speak specifically to you based on your style.
- How do you best learn or communicate? Listening, seeing/reading, touching/assembling/working with your hands. What applies to you?
- This is important to know because God will speak to you in the way you can hear and understand.

1. Natural Ways To Perceive The Supernatural. Raise your hand if this is you...⁴
 - 1) See: You are visual and see things in pictures whether in your mind or literally.
 - 2) Hear: You hear God in your mind or spirit or some people have even heard God audibly.
 - 3) Say: You open your mouth and God just pours out revelation or a prophetic word without you having to think about it.
 - 4) Feel: You sense God or your feelings or emotions are strongly involved.
 - 5) Experience: You live out prophetic words or have experiences in which God speaks to you like living parables.
 - 6) Smell/Touch/Taste: Many people with the gift of discernment have this. You can smell something wrong or taste something good.
 - 7) Intuition: You just know. You do not know how, but you just know what God is saying or the right thing to do.
 - 8) Think: You have the gift of wisdom and understanding. Yes, God can be Intellectual. There are divine thinkers and problem solvers
2. Best way to help your receptors capture the most “signal”: Cultivate eyes for the goodness of God.

Taste and see that the Lord is good – big key

- a) When we eat of His nature, we see better. Our perspective is changed.
- b) See his goodness. Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
- c) Ps 136:1 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
- d) Moses request- let me see Your glory.
Exodus 33:18 Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”
Exodus 33:19 And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.
Exodus 34:6-7 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished.

⁴ Reference: Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com

E. What you can do every day

1. Daily Expectation. You can begin your day by talking to God and asking/expecting:
 - What will You say about Yourself today?
 - How will You reveal Yourself to me today?
 - Intentionally walk through your day with these questions before you. And listening/watching for His response.
2. Moses request- let me see Your glory
 - Step away from daily activities and set your heart to pursue God. To communicate
 - Every day- Meditate and agree with the “taste and see” scriptures.
 - Ask Holy Spirit, “Please show me Jesus’ and Father’s goodness today. Open my senses to be tuned into His goodness. Open my heart to receive the reality of God’s goodness.”
3. Journal Daily.⁵ You can Create your own journal page, top to bottom: 1. Date, 2. My thoughts, 3. God spoke to me, 4. What I learned, 5. Notes.
 - a) Journal every day and write down how and what God may be speaking to you
 - Journaling will change your life beyond what you may believe possible.
 - Quite often God speaks over time and most people miss this process because they do not track it. You will need to track what God is saying to you.
 - You will need to sift through and “mine” your experiences. Look for what God is saying.
 - Study the metaphor and symbolism of the Bible.
 - b) Practice Daily
 - Daily – I expect that He will communicate something during the day.
 - Sometimes it is a phrase in somebody’s conversation with me.
 - Sometimes it’s a picture on a billboard or a saying on a sign. I will record these phrases.
 - Sometimes I wait to understand. Sometimes they are pieces of the puzzle that He makes more clear to me once I spend significant quality time with Him, when I can be quiet and focused on Him in my mind, hearing and heart.
 - Do daily spiritual activations and exercises; journal and then activate yourself by going on Facebook, emailing or texting a prophetic word or encouragement to someone. It is like working out.
 - If you do these small steps it will not take long for you to explode too, having an abundance of revelation.

⁵ Reference: Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com

Class 5. Hearing God Clearly⁶

A. Limitless ways God speaks you

1. Begin with Prophetic exercise.

- We can start class this way, easily, because He is always speaking.
- Which means we can stop in the middle of any situation, look at it, and ask to find Him there.
- **For example**, Let's ask Him right now what He is saying to you, through [provide an example].
- He might show me something that I have overlooked.

2. Some of the ways God will speak to you⁷

- **Bible, written Word.** Daniel studied the writings of another prophet and determined timing for Israel. *"In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes."* (Daniel 9:2-3)
- **Dreams and Visions.** Over one third of the Bible is made up of dreams and visions. It is a necessity to learn to interpret them. *"For God may speak in one way, or in another, Yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, When deep sleep falls upon men, While slumbering on their beds, Then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction. In order to turn man from his deed, and conceal pride from man,"* (Job 33:14-17, NKJV)
- **Visions Inward or Outward.** That means it can be a picture in your mind or it can be a literal or real life picture/movie that you see with your eyes.
- **Nature or Physical Things.** Give me an example.
- **Natural Item With Supernatural Meaning.** Bible where a natural item of clothing had a supernatural meaning. *"After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, 'The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"* (Acts 21:10-11)
- **Hearing God Through Music, Movies, and the Arts.** For example, *The Finest Hours* movie.
- **Hearing God Through Signs.** God is giving us signs all the time!

⁶ Reference: Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com. Much of the following notes are from Doug Addison's prophetic training course.

⁷ Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com

B. How do I know it is God's voice and not mine?

Believe!

1. God's Spirit communicates to our spirit
 - Our spirit communicates to our mind.
 - Our mind is important for the operation of prophetic gift. So we need to renew our minds and grow in possessing the mind of Christ.
2. You can hear from God and discern if:
 - You want to be in submission to God. To be more like Jesus.
 - Our desires are turning away from the carnal things to the things of God.
 - The fruit of the Spirit begins to manifest in our lives and thinking, as per Gal. 5:22-23.
 - We find ourselves motivated to act and minister out of love (1 Cor. 13) instead of for selfish reasons.
3. An easy prayer, to cover your mind: *Dear Lord, In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, I come before your throne. I am washed by the blood. Christ lives within me. Not just in part, but in my whole being. I bring every thought of my mind and soul into captivity to the mind of Christ. I will receive an impression, thought, or a word from the Holy Spirit who lives within me. I will gladly share it with my partner. I will not doubt it, no question it, I'll just be willing to give it. I am a believer, and I expect to receive. I thank you for giving me a thought from the throne. Amen.*
From GodSpeak.net 09

C. Which Voice⁸

How can you tell if a word is from God, ourselves, or demonic sources?

1. God's Voice
 - Discerning God's voice will come with practice. When you pray about it you will usually get confirmations.
 - It needs to be in harmony with biblical principles.
 - You will know by the peace or lack of fear you feel.
 - Don't be confused by discomfort... some people might feel discomfort and call it lack of peace. It might stretch you or go outside your comfort zone.
 - If it offends you, it might be from God because He is trying to get you to change. Remember how Peter was offended with what God said to him in Acts 10 about eating unclean animals?

⁸ Reference: Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com

2. Discerning Demonic Voices

- Demonic sources will not have the characteristics of God in them.
- The message will often violate biblical principles; it makes you angry or tells you to do things like get
- Revenge or do something self-seeking and not loving.
- Lacks humility, sounds harsh, angry, critical, and devoid of love.
- They are the opposite of God's will and ways.
- It invokes hopelessness, anxiety, or fear.
- The fear of God is different than a spirit of fear.

3. Discerning Our Own Thoughts

- Our own thoughts often elevate ourselves.
- They can be legalistic and rule--based as opposed to being energized by God's grace.
- Our own ideas will usually come to us once or twice but there will be no confirmation.

4. Can A Christian Operate In "Christian Witchcraft" or operate from the soul realm.

- Unless you have been trained to discern the Holy Spirit, you can pick up on the "soulish" realm and not realize it.
- When a Christian is doing this, they are usually operating in logic, or their own minds, opinions or offenses rather than God's words.
- What makes it "Christian witchcraft" is that a believer, (often Spirit--filled) begins crossing over into cursing or judging.
- They are using their own opinions or speaking from their wounds thinking it is God speaking to them.
- Often what they say is what I call a "good word" as opposed to a God-word.- Doug Addison
- Many Christians may not have cleaned up their gifts or have not been fully healed.
- If they are wounded they can use their God-given spiritual gifts to pray against or curse people without knowing it.

D. Hindrances to Hearing God Clearly⁹

1. Focusing on what is wrong is one of the biggest pitfalls to hearing God.

- Too often Christians are more focused on Satan and demons as opposed to God and angels.
- Prophetic gift isn't for discerning the negative. It takes true prophetic revelation to focus on the good, to see as God is seeing, beyond the natural.
- As we focus on the goodness of God, our ability to hear His voice and help people will begin to become more clear.
- *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8*

⁹ Reference: Doug Addison, www.dougaddison.com

2. Overcoming focusing on the wrong: Find a Strategy for God's Love and Power.
 - Recognize that God is showing you Satan's will or plans for a person, so pray for them.
 - God's will could be the opposite of what you are seeing negatively.
 - God is showing you the plan of the enemy so you can bring His positive solution.
 - When we do this we must be sensitive to people and get a strategy to help bring God's love and power.
 - God is greater than all the negative things.
 - Focus on God's goodness.
3. Fear of being inaccurate - overemphasis on 100% accuracy in hearing God.
 - This is what shuts us down from maturing in hearing God.
 - Mistakes Help Us Grow. It is possible to get there but it takes practice.
 - If you are not sharing things with others then you are not practicing.
4. Do not be afraid to step out and practice hearing God.
 - If you focus on positive, encouraging words you will not hurt anyone!
 - You Do Not Have A Spirit Of Fear. *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (2 Timothy 1:7)
 - Fear of being deceived
 - Fear of being wrong
 - Fear of missing God
 - Fear of stepping out and being judged
5. Step Out In Faith
 - Find a safe place to do it. Start with people who you know and let them know you are practicing.
 - Use the line: "I am taking a class on hearing God or how to encourage people ... can I practice on you?"

Class 6. Functioning in Revelation and Interpretation. Part 1

A. How does God speak to us?

The Revelation component – It is usually the first step of receiving communication

(Teacher note: The ways we hear from God were covered in previous class, therefore list them, because they are the “Revelation Step One.”)

1. Primary Ways in which God communicates to us:
 - ***The Word of God*** –
 - Scriptures to our minds (John 14:26).
 - The written Word of God is to be the foundation and plumb line for all prophecy.
 - ***Impressions*** – “word of knowledge” (Rom 12:8)
 - describes a sudden sense of knowing something about a person that you could not have obtained through natural ways.
 - ***Images*** – inner pictures that we see internally with the eyes of our heart
 - ***Inner Voice*** – words that you hear, not audibly but that resound in your mind
 - ***Emotions / Physical Sensations*** –
 - feel His emotions towards a person
 - feel the emotions of others
 - physical sensations; might feel a heaviness in our arm, a tingling in our feet, like a touch on our head, etc.
2. More – dreams, trances, open visions, angelic visitations, audible voices, experiences, nature, music and many more in His creativity.
3. Normally we hear God's voice primarily in 2-3 specific ways
 - We need to understand how God usually speaks to us. However, we don't want to be content with the “norm.”
 - Our sensitivity to the voice of God is limited when we think: “God only speaks to me through xyz.”
 - We don't want to limit Him to our familiar ways. We will miss some of what He wants to share with us if we do!
 - He is the Maker of the universe and very creative. He likes to speak in various ways to us, often for the purpose of surprising and fascinating us.

B. How do I respond to God's communication with me?

(See [Appendix A: Simple Steps for Receiving and Shaping the Prophetic Message](#), use this page as a handout and for teaching)

Look at Jesus. Talk to Him. Receive Holy Spirit's abundant generosity.

1. Three Steps of Communication: Revelation, Interpretation, Application

- Revelation – The original communication in its “raw” form. Simple description of what you saw, heard or sensed without further interpretation of what it means.
- Interpretation – What does the revelation mean?
- Application – How does God want them to respond to what is being said?

2. Revelation – The original communication in its “raw” form

- Simple description of what you saw, heard or sensed without further interpretation of what it means.
- Example: *“I see your heart looks like a diamond.”*
- This is a possible conversation with God before tuning into “heart like a diamond”: At first I see a fuzzy picture of what I think is a heart. What is this Lord? This is their heart. –Let me see more clearly.– Their heart has a diamond in it.).
Is there more you want me to see in this picture?
Is there you want me to hear?
- We’re not asking for interpretation, but a more clear picture, or bigger picture, or more clear on the words or sound.
- i.e. When Jesus placed mud on the blind man’s eyes and prayed for him, Jesus asked, what do you see? I see men walking like trees. They weren’t clear. Jesus prayed again, asked for more clarity, then the man said he saw perfectly.)

3. Interpretation – What does the revelation mean

- The next step beyond receiving revelation.
- What does it mean, Holy Spirit?
- Example: *“I sense that God wants to share with you how very precious you are to Him.”*
- *Interpretation requires reliance upon Holy Spirit. Practice.*
- *Interpretation: What does this picture mean in real life? What scripture is it portraying?*
- *Don’t say the picture. Give the meaning.*
- *Sometimes we give the picture, but more often we ask for the meaning.*
- *However, the picture itself can sometimes be the key that unlocks. – i.e., “The battle is over.” Smoke after the battle ends, after the guns cease to fire. The picture impacted my heart... Validated the difficult situation I was in and how intense it felt to me.*

4. Application –

- Application is how to respond to the Word. What to do next. Next steps to take.
- Practical implications without sounding like you are telling them what to do, without preaching or teaching.
- We want to be careful not to confuse interpretation with application.
- This course focuses on Revelation and Interpretation. Application is offered in the next course.

C. Simplifying the Revelation “Step”

Revelation will be simple or symbolic.

1. Simple revelation

- The meaning is obvious.
- It is uncomplicated and easy to understand.
- With simple revelation, you can share the revelation without explanation, and the person to whom you are prophesying will easily understand the message.
- For example,
 - A particular bible verse is clear about God’s intentions: Psalm 23:1, The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want; Proverbs 3:5, Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
 - A word comes to mind - “courageous”
 - You have an impression – “The battle is over.”
 - You have a feeling – “I am feeling God’s tender heart for you.”
 - A clear picture comes to mind – You see the Lord carrying the person.

2. Symbolic revelation¹⁰

- Most visions and dreams are symbolic.
- The word, picture or impression you receive represents something else.
- The symbolism will need to be “unlocked” by the Spirit of understanding.
- It requires interpretation by either you or the person receiving the word.
- For example,
 - A bible story is highlighted – Jesus’ disciples are in the boat on the stormy sea. This could mean that Jesus is bringing peace to a challenging situation in their life. Or it could mean that God is with you to bring you into a new season. Or...
 - A picture is highlighted – You see the person dressed in a red robe. This could mean that God wants to encourage them by reminding them of His covenant with Him. Or it could mean that He wants to encourage them by saying they are protected from the accuser. Revelation 12:11 comes to mind: They overcame by the blood of the Lamb. Or...
- Is the symbol found in the Bible?
- Discover the biblical meaning.
- Sometimes biblical symbols can have more than one meaning. For example, fire can represent Holy Spirit and it can represent trial or judgment (Acts 2:1-4, 1 Cor 3:13).
- Does the symbol have meaning in culture? (your culture or their culture)
- Symbolic revelations can have both cultural and biblical meanings, simultaneously. For example, you receive a picture of the Metro entrance door. Jesus said He is the Door, I am the Shepherd, and I bring you in and out of fields, John 10. Also, the Metro entrance door might mean more travel, daily life experiences, going from one

¹⁰ Teaching Resources:

- 1) Addison Doug, *Understand Your Dreams Now: Spiritual Dream Interpretation*, www.dougaddison.com
- 2) www.tehillahdreams.com
- 3) Milligan Ira, *Understanding the Dreams You Dream*.
- 4) Seidler Michelle, www.michelleseidler.com.

place to the next place. He wouldn't usually use this symbol for an American who lives on a farm, away from a big city.

- You don't understand the symbol:
 - Ask Holy Spirit if you can share it without interpretation.
 - The symbol might have meaning for the recipient.

3. What is the source of the revelation? Is the Revelation from God? Or my own opinion, my own imagination, or the demonic realm. (Refer to last week's teaching).

D. How to Process Revelation

1. Behold Jesus. Look at Him. Worship Him. He IS Prophecy. We hear and see accurately as we grow in our intimate relationship with Him.
2. Ask the right question of Holy Spirit.
 - a. Who are You? What are You saying/doing?
 - b. A good starting place is– What aspect of Your character or nature are You revealing to me right now? It will always move you forward.
3. Take time to develop your understanding of the revelation, by journaling and talking to Holy Spirit about it, contemplate the revelation over time, or share it with a prophetic leader.
4. This process might take longer than you anticipated. However, as you exercise your gift, you will eventually learn how to process the revelation as you are prophesying.
5. We learn by stepping out in faith and watching for the fruit, or the outcome, of the word which we gave.

Other good questions:

- Who are You? What are You saying/doing?
- What aspect of Your character or nature are You revealing to me right now?
- How are You expressing Yourself—acting, speaking, moving behind what is seen in the natural?
- Are You showing who You are through a person, a situation? And/or in their inner man—impressions?

Class 7. Flowing in God's Perspective

A. Prophecy and Intimacy with God are intertwined

1. Prophecy is our inheritance. It is a most excellent gift given to us, for the purpose of receiving God Himself. Through prophecy, we gain the wealth of a closer walk with God.
 - Our intimate relationship with God is the most important aspect of life.
 - The Spirit of Prophecy, and the gifts of prophecy accelerate our intimacy with God.
 - The Spirit of Prophecy is fully accessible to us, for the purpose of relationship. We want to pursue the Spirit of Prophecy and His gifts.
 - "Follow after love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." 1 Corinthians 14:1
2. Likewise, our intimate relationship with God is the single most important ingredient for cooperating with Holy Spirit in His gift of prophecy.
 - Our intimate pursuit of God – Intentional love, loving obedience, conversations, prayer, pursuit of developing our close relationship with Him – will open us the prophetic realm to us. And it will cultivate our relationship with the Spirit of Prophecy (which is a Person).
 - The Bride says to her Bridegroom Jesus, *"Let Him Kiss me with the kisses of His word; for Your love is better than wine."* Songs 1:2
 - Bridegroom Jesus says to His Bride, *"How beautiful is your love, My sister, My bride. How much better is your love than wine..."* Songs 4:10.

B. God's Goal is Relationship. Knowledge of God

1. The point of God's communications with us is the knowledge of God. He emphasizes that He wants Relationship.
2. Know His Nature. The Spirit of Prophecy and the Written Word will reveal God's nature to us.
 - What we know of God is most important thing.
 - What we think of Him – our belief system about His character – is most important. It will affect everything in our life.
3. We need both the (1) intentional pursuit of intimacy with God and (2) pursue our inheritance of the Spirit of Prophecy.

If this is not happening in someone's life, and they are practicing their prophetic gift based on the gift alone, this is not wise.

Why is this not wise? Connecting with the information and not the person of God.

C. God's pursuit of Relationship with us. His Desire and Good Pleasure is to be near us

[ministry to class...]

Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold [participate in] My glory which You have given Me (Jn. 17:24)

*We are designed to live by the knowledge of God – John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.**

Communication of friend – John 15: 15 "No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

My Father speaks - John 12:49-50 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. 50 "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

John 5:20 For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He does, and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

*Holy Spirit – always with me, revealing, speaking, to teach. John 14: 26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

D. See Jesus' Bride Like He Sees His Bride

1. Love Jesus by loving His Bride. Love Father by loving His sons and daughters - these releases the knowledge of God.
 - Because of who they are — creation of God, Bride of Christ, sons and daughters, brothers sisters.
 - Elect of God, holy and beloved.
 - Who does He say you are?! How does He say He is?!
2. Let's use the Song of Solomon truths to train our perspective.
 - Jesus of Song of Solomon prophecies
 - Who He says they are. How He sees their heart, intentions.
 - Jesus responds with her name, her character, her heart intentions.
 - This how HE prophecies.

3. Song of Solomon messages and seasons

- 1:2 Let Him Kiss me with His word: Increasing the awareness of who you are. Confirming your identity. His hand is upon your heart. (versus, You are dull, asleep. You need to wake up.
 - "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth— for Your love is better than wine." Songs 1:2
- 1:4 Draw me away.- Hidden season. Planting His heart in your heart. Revealing His love to you. Pouring out His love. (Versus, You are in the wilderness because He is punishing you. You are dry and you need to get more of God.)
 - "Draw me away. I will run after You..." Songs 1:4a
- 1:5 I am dark but lovely. - Bringing comfort. Causing you to know His acceptance. Stomping on shame. (Versus, Can you see how your sin is separating you from God? You need to change and then you will feel God's love.)
 - "I am dark, but lovely..." Songs 1:5a
- 2:10 Arise My beloved and come away with Me.-Invitation. New season. Stretching. Out of comfort zone into new adventure. (Come on, get up! You need to be doing more than you are doing now.)
 - "My Beloved spoke, and said to me, ' Rise up, My love, My fair one, and come away." Songs 2:10
- 3:1 On my bed by night I sought Him.- He is faithful in leading you to Himself. You are not lost. He is causing you to find Him in a different way. (God left and is hiding Himself until you make the right choices. You can't see what God is doing because He doesn't want you to see. God is allowing you to experience the results of your poor choices... He will return to you later.)
 - "By night, on my bed, I sought the one I love. I sought Him, but I did not find Him." Songs 3:1

E. Let us Prophecy God's heart – The One Who Lovingly Pursues His Bride, His Songs

1. Get His perspective of life, light, hope. And let your demeanor match!
What we believe about who God is greatly influence your ability to prophesy His thoughts, plans, desires, heart, who He is and what He is doing. His nature.
2. There is usually an area in our lives in which we don't understand, we don't know what to do, we can figure it out.
 - It is usually an area of God that I don't know...a nature of God... and He is in the process of revealing it to us.
 - it is because you are not seeing something accurately, you are misunderstanding something about God. He is always moving forward.
 - It is not about the circumstance. We are lacking heavenly perspective.

- The motivation forward, the hope, the life force, is always God... always about Him... how He is revealing Himself, what He is saying and doing.
 - Something about Him that I don't fully know. For example, maybe my challenge is finances and I'm feeling anxiety. Ask Him what don't I know about You — don't assume — it might be the Father, it might be Protector, it might be Shepherd.
3. Most people know what is wrong with them but they are unaware of the greatness that God has placed in their lives.
- We prophesy the answer — not the problem. That way, the person we are prophesying to will receive grace to solve their problem.
 - When we speak, we are creating, especially in the prophetic ministry context. We partner with Holy Spirit anointing to create life always!
 - If you see sin, i.e. pornography—The Lord has a higher way for you. Created to be near Him and to see Him with pure eyes. Blessed are the pure for they will see God—this is your scripture. You were made for it. He is with you in strength and power, to help you take further steps into seeing Him more clearly. He's washing your eyes... calling onto a higher road of loving Him. It is possible. Pray.
 - You're being conformed from glory to glory. He is good and He is a God of love, and the situations in your life are bringing you into something; they are conforming you into His image.

Class 8. Functioning in Revelation and Interpretation. Part 2

A. Review about Processing Revelation and Interpretation¹¹

(See [Appendix A: Simple Steps for Receiving and Shaping the Prophetic Message](#), use this page as a handout and for teaching)

1. We must perfect the art of stepping back into our spirits when we receive revelation.
 - The person who gives the prophetic word is responsible for the revelation of the word. It may come as a dream, a vision, or any of the ways. Picture. Hear a phrase.
 - The word of knowledge, or revelation, in many cases, is for diagnostic purposes.
 - The Lord reveals the situation to us as it is at the moment. However, the prophetic word we give may relate to what the Lord is going to do both now and in the future.
2. One of the hardest things for prophetic people to learn is that not everything that we receive is to be given.
 - Prophecy the second thing you get.
 - We can dialogue with God when we receive that first impression. "Thank You, Father," I often say. "I understand that about his life. Now, in light of that, what is it You want to say to him?"
 - What He gives us next could be the complete opposite of what we first saw because the grace of God may need to come into operation.

B. More about the process of receiving revelation and conversing with God to get the understanding about what to do with the revelation

1. We always want to approach prophetic ministry in humility and "poor" in spirit. We don't want to have the attitude of "I know." The posture of "I don't know" is much more effective.
2. Usually, don't give revelation immediately.
3. Wait and ask God for interpretation. *What does it mean?*
4. And ask for application. *What response is He looking for from them?*
5. If we speak too quickly, we can miss what God intended and not be as effective as we intended.
 - We obtain each of these three steps *by asking God for more.*

¹¹ From Graham Cooke, *Processing Revelation*. www.brilliantperspectives.com

- We want to ask Holy Spirit and rely on His leading. Through prayer and guidance of Holy Spirit. Not our own reasoning.
- Recent example of prophetic ministry -
 - This gentleman said he didn't know what to do next. He thought he had heard direction from God, but he didn't know next steps.
 - During asking and listening time-
 - First received picture of a young man warrior with sword. I asked, what is this, or who is this? What does this mean?
 - Answer: Scripture came to me from 1 John 2:14. "... I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."
 - I asked again, what does this mean for this gentleman?
 - Interpretation: God calls him warrior. He invites him into a season of gaining more from the Word. Digging into word. Strengthening His use of the Sword (the Word). It is a preparation step, for where God is taking him.

C. Interpretation: What does the Revelation mean?¹²

1. Interpretation requires reliance upon Holy Spirit. Practice. We want to be careful not to confuse interpretation with application.
 - What does this picture mean in real life? What scripture is it portraying?
 - Holy Spirit, what does this mean for this person?
2. As much as possible – Don't say the picture. Give the meaning.
 - Give the communication – the message – not the picture, or original raw communication
 - It's like talking about the ingredients of a cake. Just serve the cake with the main message written on top of the cake.
 - What if you don't receive an interpretation?
 - Sometimes just get revelation without interpretation. Sometimes a simple word or picture can mean a lot to a person.
 - If this is what we get, and not more, don't give more. Please don't try to guess.
 - If you don't understand, then give the picture, or word you "saw". You don't need to explain.
3. Class discussion
 - What is the difference between a revelation and interpretation?

¹² Interpretation Resources:

- 1) Addison Doug, *Understand Your Dreams Now: Spiritual Dream Interpretation*, www.dougaddison.com
- 2) www.tehillahdreams.com
- 3) Milligan Ira, *Understanding the Dreams You Dream*.

- Give an example from your personal life – revelation and interpretation. Clearly show the difference between these two steps.
 - Tell us what is the most difficult for you to get an interpretation of the revelation that you receive for someone.
4. Our aim is for them to meet Jesus. To Meet Jesus in the prophetic word. Then He does it.
- There is a temptation to help the person to whom are ministering... to help them understand. Not our job. We give what we believe we have received—only.
 - Not trying to fix it. Not counseling.
 - Not teaching, not preaching, not giving advice, not trying to cover everything. What do You want me to share?
5. Questions to ask beyond Interpretation:
- Once you have the revelation and the meaning of the revelation, consider these questions:
- 1) Does the prophecy align with 1 Corinthians 14:3 and is strengthening, encouraging or comforting?
 - 2) Is God's nature and character revealed?
 - 3) Is it redemptive? Focus on the positive intentions of God and focus on His redeeming purposes.
 - 4) Does the prophecy express God's love?
 - 5) Does it align with scriptural principles?
 - 6) Is the word relevant? In other words, does it make sense and is it practical for them?

D. Prophesying Grace and Life¹³

1. Focus on Father's heart for His sons; Jesus for His Bride.
 - It is a critical part of the prophetic gift to declare god's heart, intention and favor to another and to proclaim that their own breakthrough will lead them to assist others in overcoming.
 - We're being conformed from glory to glory. He is good and He is a God of love, and the situations in your life are bringing you into something; they are conforming you into His image.
 - By speaking to what God wants to do, and not what the individual, the world, or the enemy has already done, we speak freedom into a person's life!
 - That way, the person we are prophesying to will receive grace to solve their problem.
 - Separate how you pray in intercession, from how you meet with people and pray for them personally. In prophetic ministry, it is not the norm to be forceful in our presentation.
2. We prophesy the answer, not the problem.
 - Speak what God wants to be for them.

¹³ From Graham Cooke, *Processing Revelation*, www.brilliantperspectives.com

- Not trying to make them feel good. Speaking truth of what He is saying and doing.
 - When we speak, we are creating. Especially in the prophetic ministry context. We partner with Holy Spirit anointing to create life always!!
3. Here is a story about a woman who was stepping out in faith, to begin writing songs. Her experience with the prophetic is an example of interpreting from God's perspective or from our soul perspective:

"I had just started writing songs when a man called me out of a crowd to give me a word. He proceeded to say that he had seen a vision of a clock at a quarter past the hour (i.e. 2:15) and then gave his interpretation. He said that my songwriting was one-quarter anointed and three-quarters un-anointed. I was devastated! I went home and certainly didn't want to pick up a pencil and write anymore. If, instead, the word had been delivered out of an overflow of God's loving heart, grounded in a revelation of his grace, I would have reacted very differently. The same vision could have been delivered like this: "I see that the Lord has anointed you to write songs, and it is his desire to increase that anointing threefold." Such a delivery would have inspired me to run home and write. The same word delivered two different ways can have vastly different impacts. As it says in Proverbs 16:24, "Nothing is more appealing than speaking beautiful, life-giving words, for they release sweetness to our soul and inner healing to our spirit" (TPT version)"

Class 9. Our Posture and Focus When Giving the Prophetic Message. Part 1¹⁴

A. Jesus' Example

- "Zacchaeus," Jesus said in Luke 19:5, "make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."
- That acceptance changed Zacchaeus's life.
- Jesus never prophesied his sin to him, but instead loved him.
- The fruit of the encounter was immediate, according to Luke 19:7 — "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor," Zacchaeus said. "And if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."
- Jesus merely filled Zacchaeus's need to be loved, and the rest flowed from that.
- It's amazing what can occur in a community when we suspend judgment in favor of blessing.
- When prophetic people confront someone with their sin, that person will inevitably hold onto it. Without grace, the truth is useless. Our call is to speak to their potential.

B. If we see a particular sin over someone's life, it has not been revealed to us so we can pronounce judgment.

1. We need to wait and listen for further insight and instruction from above.
 - He shows us sin because there is a release in the Spirit over the person's life. Our question must be: "What is the nature of that release?"
 - God is not heartless. He will not show us sin without showing us the critical point of release that's about to come into that person's life.

2. If you see sin, i.e. pornography— an example of how the Lord might lead you to respond:

The Lord is always bringing us closer to Himself, and calling us up into a higher place with Him. He likes it when we are near.

He has a next step for you.

Created to be near Him and to see Him with pure eyes.

Blessed are the pure for they will see God—this is your scripture.

He is with you in strength and power, to help you take further steps into seeing Him more clearly.

He's washing your eyes... calling onto a higher road of loving Him. It is possible.

PRAY

This brings conviction in their lives that they are living below the glorious standard that God has set for them. And honors them at the same time.

- Exhortation word. To call up, invitation to draw near.

¹⁴ Resource: Graham Cooke, *Approaching the Heart of Prophecy*.

C. The Foundation of Prophecy is Love, 1 Corinthians 13

Graham Cooke was able to receive the “higher way” from the Lord because Graham was focused on loving God by loving His Bride. What is Your heart God? Lots of history with God in receiving His heart.

1. Key characteristics prophetic servants will seek to grow in.
Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...(I Corinthians 13:4-8)
 - The prophetic servant seeks to deal tenderly with the Bride.
 - The prophetic servant desires to walk in humility.
 - The prophetic servant is teachable and accountable—willing to receive instruction from others in administering revelation.
2. The heart of the prophetic servant is rooted and grounded in truth and righteousness. Love...does not seek its own...thinks no evil...but rejoices in truth. (I Corinthians 13:5, 6)
 - The prophetic servant believes the best without looking for darkness and judgment; When such things are present, the heart of the prophetic servant will not condemn but rather redeem.
3. The prophetic servant seeks to grow in both gifting and character.
When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (I Corinthians 13:11)
 - The gift of prophecy is not given based on spiritual maturity; however, love calls us to grow beyond childishness and immaturity into greater fruitfulness.
 - We all start at the childish stage—no one skips straight to maturity. The goal is Christ-likeness; where we learn to minister out of His love for the edification of others.
4. All the I Corinthians 13 attributes are found in the Man Christ Jesus. If we go after Him, we get the rest!

Class 10. Our Posture And Focus When Giving the Prophetic Message, Part 2

A. As ministers of the prophetic gifting given to you, it is important that we develop a lifestyle of moving in the opposite spirit of what we see.

- “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things,” Philippians 4:8.
- Jesus did just that: concentrated on truth, justice, nobility, purity, love, and virtue.

B. Class Discussion - What does prophesying the problem look like? Give examples.

C. Read story to class - Speak the Second Thing. Graham Cooke example¹⁵

One of the hardest things for prophetic people to learn is that not everything that we receive is to be given. Many prophetic ministries speak out everything they see and hear from God, broadcasting a person's innermost fears and flaws to a packed auditorium. We must become constrained by love, and remember Jesus' golden rule: “And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise” (Luke 6:31). Prophecy the second thing you get.

Speak The Second Thing

I learned this principle for the first time in a Welsh church in 1986. God set out a precedent for me, and I have held fast to that ever since. My first evening there, I had dinner with a number of leaders. One thing led to another, and I ended up praying for some of the elders there. I prophesied over the pastor of the church — for the sake of this anecdote, I'll call him David.

I was working my way around the room when I came to an elder named John. Touching his shoulder, I told him that I just wanted to wait on the Lord and see if God had anything He wanted to say. In my spirit, I asked God what He saw over John. Immediately, the Lord showed me a picture of John holding an eighteen-inch-long knife in his hand. It was a wicked-looking blade, tapering from four-inches-wide at the hilt to a sharp point, and serrated on both sides. John took his knife and began stabbing the main leader, David, in the back over and over. He didn't do it just once or twice, he stabbed him twelve, fifteen, twenty times. He plunged the knife into David, trying to get it in as deep as it could go. From every conceivable angle, John stabbed David in the back.

I was stunned, to be honest. I couldn't believe how vicious it was. I asked the Lord for an interpretation. “What's this all about?” I said to Him in my spirit. God showed me that John thought he should be the leader of the church. He thought he was more anointed, had a better ministry, and felt he was a better-equipped leader. In private, he took every opportunity to run

¹⁵ Resource: Graham Cooke, *Approaching the Heart of Prophecy*, pp. 50-55 Kindle edition

David's ministry down. He sullied his reputation, his gifting, his style, everything. John desperately wanted to build a platform for himself; he wanted status and was profoundly jealous of David's popularity.

The Spirit always gives life. At that moment, to be perfectly honest, I felt a sense of dread. I was suddenly aware that what I did next was going to be incredibly important — not just for John, but for me. I stepped even further back into my spirit and asked God what I was supposed to do with this information.

Imagine if I had prophesied the first thing I saw! "John, thus saith the Lord: stop it, you backstabbing little rat!" I held John's life in my hands in those few seconds. I could either release him from what he was doing, or bring him to a place where he would be finished in that church. If I exposed him, no one in that room would ever trust him again. Those other leaders, and especially David, would have been wary of him. A stigma would be placed over his life because I exposed something that God wanted me to use only for diagnosis. He would have been humiliated. Of course, I would have come out looking great and wonderfully "revelatory." I could have rationalized away what I did to that poor man by saying, "truth is truth."

Yes, truth is truth. But there is also grace, compassion, and mercy that come with it. We can express God's desires in a way that does not water down the truth, but is also in line with His love for the individual involved.

In my spirit, I asked the Lord what he wanted to do. "How do I handle this? What am I supposed to say?" I asked. Instantly, the peace of God came over me. "Grace," I felt the Lord say, "I want you to know what is going on in his life. But I want you to say something that is going to release him from that."

If I had prophesied the problem, I would have locked him up for years. He would have been known as that backstabber for the rest of his life. I wouldn't have freed him; I would have turned him into a prisoner of other people's fears and perceptions. He would have had to move to a new city to be free.

Fortunately, God showed me exactly what to do. I asked John and David to stand up, back to back. I looked around and found an old broom handle, and placed it in John's hands. "John, I want you to pretend this broom handle is a sword," I said. "The Lord has brought you two men together. He has stood you back-to-back, which is a fighting position. He is giving you a charge into your life, John, to guard David's back, to look after him because the enemy wants to have and destroy his life and pull him down by any means possible. He is giving you a charge to guard him and keep him prayerfully. Defend him against the enemy. Be aware that the enemy strategy is to ruin him through the hands of men who lust for power.

He has given him to you as a friend to watch over his life, pray for him, bless him, and stand with him. He wants you to be his friend and brother. You have been brought here for such a time as this. The Lord has brought you here to guard this man's back because the enemy is seeking to destroy him. He wants to kill him because he knows that if he cuts off the head, the body will die. But your friendship is going to be significant throughout the whole region. There are spirits of accusation going out against this man all the time; there is a weakening in the spiritual realm around this man's life. The enemy wants to kill him, to destroy his reputation, because there is a father's heart emerging in him.

There is an apostolic calling on his life. The Lord has brought you here to guard his back. Not to be his yes man, but to be his strong right arm.” The Blessing of the Lord makes rich...

As I spoke, John began to cry. The others in the room thought it was because of the incredible privilege God had given him. That may be partly true, but he was also crying because I was speaking to him on one level, and God was speaking to him at a deeper one. It is not a prophet’s job to convict someone of their sin. That’s the work of the Holy Spirit and, quite frankly, He doesn’t need our help doing it.

As I prophesied blessing on John, he was being convicted of his sin at that same moment. He realized that he was on the wrong side of God, and he had been doing the very things the enemy wanted him to do. He was being convicted even as blessing was being poured out on him.

John felt very guilty in that moment, but that’s okay. After all, guilt is a friend because it convinces us that we are wrong and need to repent. Guilt is different than condemnation, which makes us feel so bad that we cannot approach God for forgiveness. Guilt, however, leads us back to Christ.

At a time when any human being would have slapped John around for his sin, God gave mercy and grace. “Isn’t it time we changed this?” God whispered to him. Even as I prophesied the blessing, God was showing him the root of sin. He was prompting John to change from vicious backstabbing to his true call. Where sin abounds, grace abounds so much more.

In the spirit, I could feel John’s resolve strengthen. He determined that he would answer the call of God on his life. “I want to be that man,” he prayed, and he has been since that day. His heart broke when God honored him — and he responded. Almost twenty years later, John and David are best friends. They have held on to each other through good times and bad. Their friendship has been significant regionally, drawing churches together around their ministry. Both guys teach on how to live together and deal with confrontation. Their ministry is superb.

Later that weekend, I took John aside and asked if everything was okay with him. “You have no idea how God has blessed me this weekend!” he said. At that point, I felt the Lord nudge me to tell him what I had been shown.

“Actually, I think I might,” I said. “On Friday night, I saw you with a knife in your hand, stabbing David in the back.” He broke down in tears; a contrite spirit knows the kindness of God. The fact that the Lord knew his sin, but redeemed and blessed him publicly without exposing it, softened his heart. “You didn’t say anything,” he said. “God had something better to say than that,” I said. “Why did He bless me?” he asked. I looked him in the eyes. “John,” I said, “that’s what God is like. He’s the kindest person I’ve ever met in my life. God was only being true to his essential nature. It’s impossible for Him to be anything but kind. God is good, and His goodness leads us to repentance.”

That is the beauty of the prophetic. Anyone can speak to what is there, but only God can go beyond that and speak to what could come. Why speak to the flesh when you can speak to the treasure?

If we do not understand the diagnostic principle, we may prophesy a problem and cause major damage. The Gospel is redemptive; a prophet must be good news, even if that news is repentance.

“We have this treasure in earthen vessels,” Paul said (2 Corinthians 4:7). It is better to speak to the treasure rather than just the clay pot. Whatever you speak to in people will rise up. If you speak to nobility it emerges. If you speak to the Christ-like nature, He is revealed. If we connect with someone’s carnality, it will rise up too. –end–

Class 11. Seasons and Symbols

A. What is God doing, in what season?

1. Seasons are cycles of growth with God.
 - Always **Life** with God in every season.
 - Season - gain from God, to take into next season what you need for that season. Gain from previous season or seasons, to success in current season.
 - All are unto life, love, relate to God, know God, and advance with Him.
 - Training, equipping, spiritual development, taking land, bringing heaven to earth.
 - Progressive Life, Isaiah 35.
2. Over the course of our lives
 - King David, his life journey- young shepherd > young warrior > anointed King > refugee > king. Especially during his refugee season, David was tempted to try to take control, to reduce the pressure and to bring him into earlier time of being king. However, he chose to trust God's ability to raise him up as king. Could this be why he was so anointed as king; had much of God's favor?
 - Joseph – favorite son > cast out > slave > favored servant > prisoner > ruler
3. Scriptures
 - Ecclesiastes 3:1 There is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
 - Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.
 - Daniel 2:20-21. Blessed be God forever and ever. For wisdom and might are His. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
 - Psalm 1:3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.
 - Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert

B. Every Season in God is Always unto Life and Love

1. Partner with Jesus and release His life on earth. Perceive where He is bringing life and prophesy it... Declare it.
Help me see where You are **Life** in this season.
2. Conforming into image of Jesus always. Unfolding glory. Glory to glory to glory.
3. If I know what season God has arranged for me, then I can agree.

- Removes frustration. Misunderstanding.
- I can better find Him when I agree with what He is doing.
- For example, if I wanted to start building a house, and I thought it was the “spring season”, then I would go to the lumber store and purchase the wood needed, go to cement store and purchase cement, etc.
 - However, if God is saying it is winter season, then it is not time to build the house. I will run into problems because I am out of season... lack of money, mistakes, challenges simply because it is not the season for it.
 - Winter season for house building could be what? Ask class. (Answers could be, for example: Grow in vision for house, develop blueprints, rest and build strength for next season, close doors to distractions for the next season)

C. A way to Understand Seasons: Egypt>Wilderness>Promise Land

God's ways- out of Egypt, transported to Promise Land by way of wilderness.

1. Egypt - sinful flesh, world system, bondage, unsaved.
2. Wilderness
 - We receive training, equipping, preparation, to be successful in the fullness of your earthly purpose.
 - If we say yes to God, we are always walking in some aspects of our earthly purpose.
 - He is planting and growing a life message in you, a presentation of an aspect of God's nature. (Transformed into the likeness of Christ)
 - Sometime the way through the wilderness looks disjointed, like the pieces don't fit. Parts of your journey look different than your future fulfilled purpose.
 - E.g. word given recently to a young man... God gives the robe, the mantle, the shirt—your purpose, your identity, His covering and leadership. However, the shirt/mantle needs to be created by a tailor.
 - The pieces are cut out one by one, and eventually sewn together.
 - Each piece is a part of gaining more of the knowledge of God.
 - Some pieces look very different than other pieces. And each piece has a different function, i.e. collar, sleeve, back.
 - If you don't understand, you would think you are off track. Or that God forgot about you.
 - Gaining wisdom and how to enter into God's presence, to stay in God's presence, in the wilderness.
 - Time of testing when God strengthens your faith
 - Gaining understanding of authority and power
 - Discover how to find God's goodness.
 - Trust in God as the way of relationship with Him is developed.

3. Promise Land

- Function by rest in God
- Influence increases
- Provision matches the calling
- More responsibility
- Increased agreement with God. Unity
- Function by Presence

D. Prophetic Words and Seasons

1. Every season is always about His love and Him revealing an aspect of His nature.
 - If we feel restricted and “paralyzed,” there is an area of God that we don’t know – a nature of God – and He is in the process of revealing it to us.
 - It is not about the circumstance. We are not stuck because of our circumstance.
 - We feel stuck because we are lacking life somewhere... lacking heavenly perspective.
 - Something about Him that I don’t fully know.
 - The motivation forward, the hope, the life force, is always God. It is always about Him—how He is revealing Himself, what He is saying and doing.
2. Prophetic words come to you in your season to reveal God’s nature/character. When receiving a prophetic word for yourself, ask: Is this for current season?
 - If this word is for this season, notice your negative response/emotion. What is it about You, God, that I don’t know?
 - i.e. What do to: What if it is incubation season—what are you doing with the seed in me—what else are You doing while I’m sitting on the eggs?
3. We want to ask the right question in the right season.
4. You might not immediately recognize that your prophecy is timely and relevant. Sometimes the understanding and application of the prophetic word is a mystery for a season. However, later you could receive the understanding and be greatly impacted. Puzzle pieces join together over time, making sense of the individual pieces.

E. More Ways to Understand Seasons

1. Song of Solomon. Our class named “Flowing in God’s Perspective.” How Jesus speaks to His Bride, How He feels about her, how He leads her into greater love for Him.
2. Weather seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter (Students may also refer to resource: Seasons Definitions)
(Teacher – Use white board to ask students possible interpretation for each season. Write on the board the appropriate interpretations.)
 1. Winter – roots go deep, hidden, quiet, regain strength, receiving vision, time to plan for a new season of life in the spring (this is hopeful perspective)

2. Spring – planting, new life, plowing the ground, clearing out old, birthing
3. Summer – heat, fruit, refresh, high productivity, weeding
4. Fall – harvest, pruning, death, transition, maturity.

F. Key Questions to Unlock Revelation, Understanding, the Door before them

1. What season is he in? Season as it applies to what area of his life?
2. What nature of Yourself are You revealing in this season? Who are You in this season of his workplace?
3. Who do You say he is in this season? (consider Song of Solomon)

G. Symbols

God gives us symbols to cultivate our creativity. He wants us to be like Him, think like Him. When God communicates by symbols, it is like He is communicating to us in a foreign language. We can learn the foreign language. A language from heaven.

1. Symbols are like metaphors.
What is metaphor?
 - A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that means one thing is used to describe an object or idea to which it is not literally applicable.
 - Thinking in metaphors releases creativity. Helps us see something from a different viewpoint, which may lead to solutions that might not otherwise be anticipated.
 - Life is full of metaphor and parables messages. Notice street signs, songs on the radio or in stores, commercials, billboards, addresses, and numbers. Not everything will be God speaking to you, but quite often you can recognize God's voice through metaphors in your daily life.
2. Think Metaphorically. Not literal
 - "Season" is a metaphor.
 - Prophetic art is full of metaphor, symbols, hidden meaning, poetry.
 - We will develop this in our Prophetic Activation Exercise. ☺
 - i.e. Song of Songs—Songs 1:2 Jesus, kiss me with the kisses of Your mouth.- Mouth is Word. Unlock my heart to the life of Your Word. Jesus is not literally kissing my mouth.
3. To grow in understanding symbolic language: Equip yourself, lay a good foundation by:
 - Studying the parables of Jesus
 - Studying the dreams and visions interpreted in the Bible
 - Develop a dream vocabulary:
 - This will be personal to you, the object or symbol may not mean the same to you as it does to someone else.

- Make a list; define each symbol as God shows you what it means, if you don't understand the meaning of the whole dream, jot down what you do understand.
 - Ask yourself, 'What does this symbol mean to me?'
4. Simple Definitions of Common Symbols (See [Appendix E](#)) – Student's may use this resource for growing in understanding biblical symbology.

*Symbols change from dream to dream, and from dreamer to dreamer.

Class 12. Spirit of Wisdom

A. Wisdom's Eyes Empower Us to See and to Choose the Best

"Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it."— J.I. Packer, "Knowing God"

- The Spirit of Wisdom is a supernatural ability to do something beyond our human capacity. It is the skillful ability to do what God has called you to do.
- Wisdom solves problems. Wisdom creates solutions. Wisdom makes a way when, previously, there was not a way. Wisdom goes beyond roadblocks.
- Proverbs 4:11-13, *I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life*

B. God is Wisdom

1. He is wise and He is Wisdom. It is His name. The essence of Wisdom.
 - Wisdom is a Person. The Man Jesus Christ, Forever Son of God. Living.
 - Jesus: *I was with Father when the earth was created.*
 - Proverbs 8:27-30 *I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans. I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth. I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations, I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence*
2. Jesus lived constantly "plugged into" the flow of the Spirit of Wisdom. Because He did this daily, He was able to display skillful living that glorified His Father. Because He lived by wisdom on earth, the reality of the Kingdom of God was seen by many.
3. Wisdom applied to our daily lives, applied to what we do, sets us apart from others. Applied wisdom releases strong leadership and authority.
 - Daniel 1:20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding, concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

C. Wisdom is Intertwined with the Spirit of Prophecy

1. Spirit of Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. What is God saying and doing—what are His activities.
 - Wisdom is the power to partner with God's activities, joining with Him in our daily lives to accomplish His purposes.

2. Wisdom brings us to God. Turns us to God. Leads us in the way of righteousness and holiness.
 - Proverbs 9:10-11, *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.*
3. Wisdom is always speaking. Always ready to give answer for the way to go. Always ready to offer a simple solution to a complex problem.
 - Eccl 2:26, *To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness...*

D. Our Problems are an Invitation into Wisdom. Our Problems are the Gateway to More Glory

1. A friend at IHOPKC would often say, "With God, you have no problems!"
 - Because every problem is an invitation into more God. It is a divine setup to experience breakthrough with God. Every challenge is an opportunity to know more about God.
 - The next step which God always places before us will give us more glory.
 - When we have eyes of wisdom, we perceive as God does. We can behold the next place of His goodness.
 - God always gives life, light, love, righteousness, peace, joy to us.
 - <Open for class discussion>

E. Where are You Looking? What is Your Focus?

1. Let us look at the I Kings 19 story about Elijah hiding in a cave.
 - Elijah was stuck looking at his problems. He thought he had a problem.
 - God wanted to know why Elijah had interpreted his situation negatively.
 - God asked Elijah, why are you here?
2. Primary message from this passage: Step away from looking at the darkness. Step away from looking at your problem. And step **forward** into My voice and actions. It is a Father and son exchange.
 - Read aloud: 1 kings 19:9-13 ⁹ And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
 - ¹⁰ So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."
 - ¹¹ Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

- ¹³ So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
3. Verse 9 - What are you doing here Elijah? 1 Kings 19:9-13 9 And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
 4. Verse 10 - God, don't you know about my big problem? ¹⁰ So he said, “I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”
 - Elijah was depressed because he focused on the negative.
 5. Verse 11 - God says to move, take a step. Go out and stand before Me on the mountain.
 - “Then He said, “Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.” And behold, the Lord passed by...”
 - I give you Wisdom. I have new way for you. Turn your head, turn your heart, and come toward Me. My voice gives you wisdom for your path.
 - God was training Elijah how to better discern the voice of God, where is God and what is he doing. But God insisted that Elijah learn by taking a step into where God was.
 6. Verse 13 - Elijah wrapped himself in his mantle and takes another step to be in communication with God.
 - “13 So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?””
 - Wrapped in mantle:
 - Let us consider “Wrapped in mantle” to be- agreed that he was in God’s presence, embracing his identity, receiving God’s embrace.
 - Wrap yourself in My identity and your identity. Wrap yourself in Me.
 - Mantle- by relationship and trust.
 7. Verse 13b - ... Suddenly a voice came to him [Elijah], and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
 - God wanted to speak to Elijah again, after Elijah had taken a further step in agreement with God.
 - He wanted to teach Elijah a new way of perceiving life, circumstances.
 - God repeated the same question to Elijah, because he wanted him to see differently. God asks again, what are you doing here Elijah?
 8. This time God is asking why did I bring you here (to stand outside and find Me)? But Elijah didn't understand the question. Elijah repeated what he had said before - he talked about his plight instead of looking at what God was doing.

1 Kings 19:14 And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

9. God continues to lead Elijah into truth and light. He speaks to Elijah about his place in the field. How God's already prepared him. But the way he leads him is by relationship and insisting that Elijah know who he is. We need to grow and receiving your mantle and walk in it.

1 Kings 15-17. 15 Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place.

F. Summary

Key passage: "So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" (1 Kings 19:13). God was really asking, "Why did I bring you (Elijah) here?"

This is what God is saying: Learn to find Me in the darkness. I will invite you to go with Me into dark places. Let me show how to find Me and agree with Me in the dark places.

- How is God doing this with you?
- God trains us to recognize Him outside, so that we can fulfill His next Kingdom assignment.
- Be with Me in the field in a greater way.
- Step out of the old way of hearing Me.

G. Class Exercise – 5 minutes. (This is not the Prophetic Activation Exercise.)

- Provide time for class members to talk with Holy Spirit. Ask them to write down what they receive.
- God is asking you, "Why did I bring you here?"
- "Where or what is your personal "here?"

II. PROPHETIC EXERCISES AND ACTIVATION

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #1 Class 1

Prophecy is Loving God and Others

(Allow 15 minutes)

Facilitator, please ask class participants' these questions, giving time for 30-second responses:

1. What experience have you had with the prophetic gifts?
2. What was your experience when someone prayed for you and shared a prophetic word with you?
3. How was the experience in agreement with the key characteristics taught in this session?
4. How do you foresee God meeting you through this course?

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #2 Class 2

Personal Connection with the Spirit of Prophecy

(Allow 20-25 minutes)

Step 1 – Facilitator, please speak this introduction:

1. This exercise is to be applied by each participant, personally for themselves.
2. We will search for the evidence of Jesus in scripture, expecting to discover the “testimony of Jesus.”
3. We will ask Holy Spirit to show us the evidence of Jesus in scripture.
4. We will wait to see or hear from Holy Spirit, by reading the passage to Him. We do not try to figure it out ourselves. We are not looking for the best teaching or a theological answer. We are expecting to understand a part of Jesus’ nature in the passage

Step 2 – Facilitator, introduce 4 scriptures as the resource for the exercise (You do not need to read the scriptures out loud). Ask the class to record the scriptures in their notes, or the facilitator can write them on the white board.

Verses:

1. Genesis 26:12-18 Jacob and the wells
2. Judges 13:1-5 Prophetic word about the birth of Samson
3. Ephesians 6:13-17 Put on the full armor
4. Philippians 2:14-18 Paul’s words about shining brightly

Step 3 – Instruct each participant to ask Holy Spirit:

“Through which scripture do You want to speak to me today?” (This will take about 5-10 seconds for each person. They will note Holy Spirit’s answer.)

Step 4 – For each participant:

Using the scripture choice by Holy Spirit, ask Him another question and wait for His response: “Holy Spirit, please show me the evidence of Jesus in this scripture passage. How is Jesus ‘speaking’ in this verse or influencing this verse?”

Reminder to class: We wait to receive from Holy Spirit, by reading the passage to Him. We do not want to try to figure it out ourselves. We are not looking for the best teaching or a theological answer. We are expecting to perceive a part of Jesus’ nature in this passage.

Step 5 – Allow 2-3 minutes quiet time for processing

Step 6 – “Ask Again”

1. For each participant, we will apply the “Ask Again” principle.
 - a. “Ask Again” is an easy way to receive more than you had expected to receive.
 - b. “Ask Again” is asking the same question again, maybe in a slightly different version.
 - c. We do this to practice waiting on God for a more full answer.
 - d. We know we can do this because God is generous with His revelation. He is always speaking to us.
2. (Quietly, as your seat) Ask Holy Spirit to reveal more about Jesus from the Bible verse.
“Holy Spirit, what more do You want to show me about Jesus in this scripture?”

Reminder to class: We wait to receive from Holy Spirit, by reading the passage to Him. We do not want to try to figure it out ourselves. We are not looking for the best teaching or a theological answer. We are expecting to perceive a part of Jesus’ nature in this passage.

Step 7 –

1. Allow 2 minutes quiet time for processing.
2. Choose 3-4 people to share their revelation of Jesus’ testimony. (maximum 1 minute each)
3. Allow 5-7 minutes total time for all answers. (Everyone in the class will not be able to give their response. There is not enough time.)

Step 8 – Encourage class to apply this technique to their everyday scripture reading. They can journal what they receive from Holy Spirit.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #3 Class 3

God is always speaking. His Name is Revelation and Living Word

(Allow 20-25 minutes)

Step 1 – Facilitator, please share these points:

- When we ask the right questions we will accelerate more quickly.
- A good starting place is to ask God– what aspect of Your character or nature are You revealing to me or to the one before me right now?

Step 2 – Introduce the 5 Names or Natures of God, as the resource for the exercise. Display Names on PowerPoint screen. Continue to show the Names on the screen throughout this exercise.

PPT slide-

1. Beautiful
2. Righteous and Just
3. One Who Sees and Cares
4. Good and Generous
5. One Who Speaks

Step 3 – Divide the class into smalls groups of 2 each.

Tell the groups: You will be doing this exercise for the other person in your group.

Step 4 –

1. Part 1 (3-4 minutes)
 - (Both group members will do this) For the other person in your group, ask Holy Spirit what aspect of God’s nature or character is God showing to this person this week? Choose from one of the five God names.
 - Ask Holy Spirit; “What do You want to say about it?”
 - Write down what you receive. Keep it brief (5 sentences maximum). Do not give a big explanation.
2. Part 2 (3-5 minutes)
 - Each person in the group shares what they received from Holy Spirit. Share what you wrote.

Step 5 – If there is time, ask the class to give a brief testimony of their experience in this exercise.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #4 Class 4

God wants conversation

Step 1 – This activation exercise will help you discover how God designed you to receive revelation from Him. Briefly review the 8 ways to receive revelation.

1. **See:** You are visual and see things in pictures whether in your mind or literally.
2. **Hear:** You hear God in your mind or spirit or some people have even heard God audibly.
3. **Say:** You open your mouth and God just pours out revelation or a prophetic word without you having to think about it.
4. **Feel:** You sense God or your feelings or emotions are strongly involved.
5. **Experience:** You live out prophetic words or have experiences in which God speaks to you like living parables.
6. **Smell/Touch/Taste:** Many people with the gift of discernment have this. You can smell something wrong or taste something good.
7. **Intuition:** You just know. You do not know how, but you just know what God is saying or the right thing to do.
8. **Think:** You have the gift of wisdom and understanding. Yes, God can be Intellectual. There are divine thinkers and problem solvers.

Step 2 –

1. Invite each class participant to sit quietly, perhaps close their eyes, and speak this to God: “God, I’m here. I’m sitting here simply as an object of Your love. I wait on You to share with me about Your love for me.”
2. Have them wait on God, to receive (about 30-60 seconds).
3. Then answer these questions for themselves:
 - How is God speaking (see 8 ways)?
 - What is it like for you when He speaks?
 - Do you see it, feel it, or just know it? Hear it?

Step 3 –

1. Invite each class participant to sit quietly, perhaps close their eyes, and speak this to God: “What does God really like about the person sitting next to me?”
2. Have them wait on God, to receive (about 30-60 seconds).
3. Then answer these questions for themselves:
 - How is God speaking (see 8 ways)?
 - What is it like for you when He speaks?
 - Do you see it, feel it, or just know it? Hear it?

Step 4 –

If there is time, have participants share their experiences with the class. Were they surprised by the way God spoke to them? Was it easy to receive?

Step 5 –

If there is time, they may share with the person sitting next to them, what they received about them. Briefly, about 1 minute. Otherwise, they can share during the break.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #5 Class 5

Hearing God Clearly

(Allow 40-50 minutes)

Instructor: For this exercise, students will have 30 minutes to process the questions. Some students may not finish all questions. It is okay, because they can finish at home. Please allow an additional 15 for testimonies, discussions.

Lectio Divina¹⁶ (Latin for “divine reading”) is a way to read the Bible in a contemplative way, to go deep into a specific Bible passage. This method is an excellent method to use when growing in hearing God.

1. **Choose a passage of Scripture, either Matthew 5:43-48 or Philippians 2:1-11**

Matthew 5:43-48, ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Philippians 2:1-11, Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³ Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. **Find a place to be still and quiet before God.** Embrace His peace. Chase the nattering thoughts out of your mind. Calm your body. Breathe slowly. Inhale. Exhale. Inhale. Exhale. Clear yourself of the distractions of life. Whisper the word, “Stillness.” Take your time. When you find that rest in the Lord, enjoy it. Worship Him in it. Be with Him there.

¹⁶ Excerpt from “**Approaching the Heart of Prophecy. A Journey Into Encouragement, Blessing and Prophetic Gifting,**” by Graham Cooke, Brilliant Book House LLC, Copyright © 2006 by Graham Cooke

3. **Read the passage twice.** Allow its words to become familiar to you.
 - a. What images are brought to your spirit? What do you see?
 - b. Become a part of it.
 - c. What phrases or words especially resonate with you?
 - d. Meditate especially on those shreds of revelation. Write those pieces down in your journal.
4. **Read the passage twice again.** Allow the words to fall upon your spirit
 - a. What excites you? What scares you?
 - b. What exhilarates you about this revelation of the nature of God?
 - c. What are you discerning?
 - d. What are you feeling?
 - e. What are you hearing?
 - f. Again, write it all down in your journal.
5. **Write the theme of this passage in your journal.**
6. **Does this passage rekindle any memories or experiences?** Does it remind you of any prophetic words you have given or received? Write those down as well.
7. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this Scripture?** Investigate it with Him — picture the two of you walking through it together. Write those words in your journal.
8. **Read the passage two final times.** Meditate on it. Is there something God wants you to do? Is there something He is calling you to? Write it down.
9. **Pray silently.** Tell God what this passage is saying to you. Tell Him what you are thinking about. Write down your conversation together. Picture yourself and the Holy Spirit as two old friends in a coffee shop, chatting about what God is doing.
10. **Finally, pray and thank God for His relationship with you.** Come back to the passage once a week for the next three months. Read it and let more revelation flow into you. If you feel compelled to, craft a prayer based on this passage for yourself, your family, your friends, or your church. Pray that prayer until you feel God has birthed it in you.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #6 Class 6

Functioning in Revelation and Interpretation. Part 1

Facilitator, please offer the following summary points about how to receive revelation and process it.

- Exhort, comfort, edify.
 - Reveals His nature, His heart, smells like Jesus. Safety.
 - To meet Jesus. To Meet Jesus in it. Then He does the work that the word released.
1. Keep it Simple.
 - Extract the word. Don't tell the entire picture. Usually picture is an introduction into further meaning.
 - When God stops speaking, we should too! People who are prophesying often feel the pressure to give more.
 - Remember, we don't have to be profound to be powerful.
 2. When you receive a Picture or hear something- Ask Holy Spirit, what does this mean? Interpretation. If you don't understand, then give the picture, or word you "saw". You don't need to explain.
 - Don't give the picture – give the communication – the message.
 - Ask the question, "What do You want me to share?"
 3. Don't give the story of how you got to the message/word. Distracts from the primary message.
 - "I saw a dog walking down the road and then he followed a cat. The dog was brown and the cat brown. Then I asked the Lord about the fence that was near the dog. Etc. – too much info...it distracts from the impact.
 - It's like talking about the ingredients of a cake. Just serve the cake.
 - Better example, as metaphor for how to present simple message: the artist presents his painting. And sets it up for the person to receive it, places it on the stand, and steps back to look at it. Ponder. The artist doesn't usually tell how he developed the picture—what paints he used, what brush, what was his first step, etc.
 4. Not trying to fix it. Not counseling. Not teaching, not preaching, not giving advice, not trying to cover everything.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation

(Allow 20-30 minutes)

Step 1 - Facilitator, choose a volunteer to receive ministry. They can remain in their seat. They do not need to go to the front of the room.

Step 2 – For the class as a group- Ask Holy Spirit to help you with this question. “Jesus, Jesus, how are You healing and strengthening him/her?

Write on paper, and then we will have time to say it.

- Receive His initial communication – picture, word or phrase, feeling in your body, understanding/knowing of something.
- What does this mean?
- Is there more that You want me to understand about the Revelation and meaning?
- What part do I share with the person?

Step 3 –

- a. Give 2 minutes for processing.
- b. Choose 3-4 people to Give interpretation, not revelation. (record the words please and send to the volunteer after class). Allow 3-5 minutes time for ministry. (Everyone in the class will not be able to give their response. There is not enough time, and it is too much information.)

Step 4 – Ask The Volunteer for feedback. This is similar to a debriefing. 1 minute.

- a. Were you blessed or encouraged by these words?
- b. Did any "hit" a situation? (Family, personal, life, job)
- c. Do you believe the Lord spoke to you through this group?

Repeat Steps 1-4 again.

If there is time, repeat a third time.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #7 Class 7

Flowing in God's Perspective

(Allow 20 minutes)

Step 1 - Introduce the 5 Song of Solomon verses as the resource for the exercise. Display verses on PowerPoint screen. Continue to show the verses on the screen throughout this exercise.

Verses:

1. "Let Him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth – for Your love is better than wine." Songs 1:2
2. "Draw me away. I will run after You..." Songs 1:4a
3. "I am dark, but lovely..." Songs 1:5a
4. "My Beloved spoke, and said to me, ' Rise up, My love, My fair one, and come away." Songs 2:10
5. "By night, on my bed, I sought the one I love. I sought Him, but I did not find Him." Songs 3:1

Step 2 - Facilitator, choose a volunteer to receive ministry. The volunteer may remain in his seat. He does not need to go to the front of the room.

Step 3 - Question for the class as a group, to apply to the volunteer:

Ask Holy Spirit to help you with this question.

"Jesus, from which Song of Solomon message are You ministering to Your beloved, in this season?"

Step 4 –

- a. Allow 2 minutes for processing.
- b. Choose 3-4 people to give revelation, not interpretation.
- c. Ask the responders to **tell the class the original "raw" information they received.** And how did they reach the decision to choose that particular verse.
- d. Allow 3-5 minutes time for ministry. (Everyone in the class will not be able to give their response. There is not enough time, and it is too much information.)

Step 5 – Ask all responders to ask again – what is interpretation? What are saying/doing with this verse?

Step 6 – Ask The Volunteer for feedback. This is similar to a debriefing (1 minute)

1. Did you relate to any of these words?
2. Were you blessed or encouraged?
3. Did any "hit" a situation? (Family, personal, life, job)
4. Do you believe the Lord spoke to you through this group?

Step 7 - Repeat Steps 2-6 again. If there is time, repeat a third time.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #8 Class 8

Functioning in Revelation and Interpretation. Part 2

The purpose of this exercise is to pursue deeper understanding of what God shows us, rather than just delivering the message right away. We want to value what God shows us and seek Him for more understanding of what He speaks before we move on to something new. By doing this we increase accuracy and impact of the one prophetic word we give.

Step 1 – Ask Holy Spirit for a short prophetic sentence or message, just one sentence with no more than 20 words. Write it down.

Step 2 – Then ask Holy Spirit to highlight a single word in this sentence and ask Him for more understanding of this single word.

Step 3 – After asking Holy Spirit for His simple interpretation of the specific word, insert the simple interpretation into the sentence, replacing the specific word.

Step 4 – Share the sentence with the inserted interpretation. Then prayer simple prayer in agreement (30 second prayer).

Step 5 – Ask class about the exercise:

- What was your experience of "ask again for more?"
- What was your experience of adding prayer at the end?

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #9 Class 9-10

Our posture and focus when giving the prophetic message

Step 1 – Prepare the class to minister in groups of 3. If there is time, each person will have opportunity to prophesy in their group.

Step 2 – Each group will choose the person who will prophesy and who will receive the ministry in the group. Third person is an observer.

Step 3 – Prophetic minister will ask Holy Spirit to lead them. We are seeking to understand how God is bringing this person into the next place of glory.

Step 4 – Questions to ask Holy Spirit (they are very similar questions and are basically different ways to word the same question):

- a. Where is the river of life that you are cultivating in his/her life and how is it functioning?
- b. What is the "new thing" that you are cultivating in his/her life and what does it look like?

Step 5 –

1. If Holy Spirit highlights the river question, follow these instructions:

River - Read all of these verses over the person you are ministering to, and ask Holy Spirit to highlight one of the points, then launch into prophetic message from that highlighted point.

Psalms 46:4-5 *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she will not be moved; God will help her in the early dawn.*

John 7:37-38 *On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'*

2. If Holy Spirit highlights using the "new thing" question, follow these instructions:

New Thing – Prophecy can release new things. Read all of these verses over the person you are ministering to, and ask Holy Spirit to highlight one of the points, then launch into prophetic message from that highlighted point.

Isa 42:9 *See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.*

Isa 43:19 *See, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not be aware of it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*

Isa 48:6 *You have heard, see all this. And will you not declare it? I have shown you new things from this time, even hidden things, and you did not know them.*

Step 6 – Repeat Steps 2-6 for each person in the group.

Step 7 – Give opportunity to discuss the activation exercise.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #10 Class 11

Seasons and Symbols

Step 1 – Choose a partner.

Step 2 –

- In this session, please use the season metaphor: Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter.
- Ask Holy Spirit, "Regarding my partner, in what season is his inner life with Jesus?"
- Ask Holy Spirit, "In this season, what nature of Jesus is Jesus revealing in this season?"
- Ask Holy Spirit, "What do you want to share?"

Step 3 – Share the prophetic word with your partner. Pray for him (30 second prayer).

Step 4 – Partners trade places. Repeat steps 2-4, except use the season metaphor:
Egypt – Wilderness – Promise Land.

Step 5 – Conduct a class debrief.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #11 Class 11

Seasons and Symbols

Brief teaching before activation exercise

1. Think Metaphorically. Not literal.

What is Metaphor?

- A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that means one thing is used to describe an object or idea to which it is not literally applicable.
- Thinking in metaphors releases creativity. Helps us see something from a different viewpoint, which may lead to solutions that might not otherwise be anticipated.
- Life is full of metaphor and parables messages. Notice street signs, songs on the radio or in stores, commercials, billboards, addresses, and numbers. Not everything will be God speaking to you, but quite often you can recognize God's voice through metaphors in your daily life.

2. Metaphor Experiment –

With metaphorical thinking, you shift your frame of reference and make a connection between the problem and something else. Take a moment and suppose you want to increase your personal productivity at work. Your problem could be stated as, "In what ways might I become more productive at work?" What ideas do the following metaphorical questions spark in your imagination about the problem?

Some examples (facilitator does not need to read all of them. Choose 1-3).

- What animal is like your problem? Why?
- A cheeseburger is like the solution to the problem because.....
- How is your problem like a flash light? How are the components similar? How can the similarities and differences provide ideas?
- How is an iceberg like an idea that might help you solve the problem?
- Why is a road map like your problem? What ideas can you get from a road map to help solve your problem? How about a GPS?
- In what ways can you hear the problem? What does it sound like? What else sounds like that? How can those things inspire ideas?

PROPHETIC ACTIVATION EXERCISE

Step 1 – For more “spice” to this activation, set up room so that partners’ backs are to each other. The prophetic minister cannot see who his partner is.

Step 2 – Ask Holy Spirit: “What metaphor is Jesus using to describe a current challenge in their life?”

Examples of response:

- Your challenge is like a lion because it seems like if you take one wrong step, you could be in danger. However, Jesus is your lion-tamer. Step into Him as your lion-tamer.
- Your challenge can be like a hamburger. If you add special sauce – what is especially tasty to you – then it is easier to eat it, one bite at a time.

Step 3 – Processing the Word. Allow 3-5 minutes.

Step 4 – Share the received message, without turning around and looking at the one for whom they prayed.

Step 5 – After the word is given they can turn around and get feedback (5 minutes.)

Step 6 – Repeat steps 1-5 if there is time available.

Prophetic Exercise and Activation #12 Class 12

Spirit of Wisdom

In this session, we will practice seeking wisdom and applying wisdom to a challenge. Also, we will experience the process of asking several questions, to go further with Spirit of Prophecy. To practice conversation with Holy Spirit. We will practice waiting on Holy Spirit.

Step 1 – Prepare the class to minister in groups of 2.

Step 2 – Prophetic minister will ask Holy Spirit to lead this session. We are seeking to understand how God is bringing this person into the next place of glory.

Step 3 – Three questions to ask Holy Spirit:

- a. Holy Spirit, What is he focused on when he wakes up in the morning? Or, what is his waking challenge?
- b. How are You using this challenge to bring him into the next place of glory with Jesus?
- c. Ask Holy Spirit, What do you want me to share? Ask Him to include a scripture as part of the message.
- d. Ask Holy Spirit, How do you want me to share it?

(Remember what we learned from the previous class— “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things,” Philippians 4:8.)

Step 4 – Share the prophetic word.

Step 5 – Class debriefing.

Appendix A. Simple Steps for Receiving and Shaping the Prophetic Message

- A. Behold Jesus.** Look at Him. Worship Him. He Is Prophecy. We hear and see accurately as we grow in our intimate relationship with Him. We are in conversation with God.
- B. Ask the “best” question(s) of Holy Spirit**
- C. Receive the raw revelation from your questions**
- Receive His initial communication – picture, word or phrase, feeling in your body, understanding/knowing of something.
 - Apply the “Ask Again Principle”: Is there more that You want me to see or hear about the raw revelation?
- D. Receive the interpretation of the raw revelation.** Ask Holy Spirit, What does the revelation mean?
- Apply the Ask Again Principle: What else do You want to give to understand about the revelation?
 - More questions to ask Holy Spirit
 - What does this picture mean in real life?
 - What scripture is it portraying?
 - Holy Spirit, what does this mean for this person?
- E. Receive the simplified message.** Ask Holy Spirit to help you simplify the message, or extract the primary message to give.
- What part do You want me share with the person? Which piece of “the steak, or spoon of soup, or type of tea?”
 - What is the main message, the golden piece?
- F. Ask questions for final review**
- Does the prophecy align with 1 Corinthians 14:3? Is it strengthening, encouraging or comforting?
 - How is God’s nature and character revealed?
 - Is it redemptive? Focus on the positive intentions of God and focus on His redeeming purposes.
 - Does the prophecy express God’s love?

- Does it align with scriptural principles?
- Is the word relevant? In other words, does it make sense and is it practical for them?
- Eliminate anything that sounds like/looks like you are: trying to fix them or their problem; counseling or giving advice; teaching, preaching; giving too much information.

G. Giving the prophetic message

- Put on Jesus. Let your appearance reflect Light, Life, Hope, Love.
- Match your appearance and body language with the tone of the prophetic message.
- Usually we will not approach people in a forceful manner, like we would when we in intercessory prayer. We apply a different approach when prophetically praying for people, because we want to help them receive the word

Appendix B. Responding to Personal Prophetic Words

A. Pray about your prophecy. Talk to God. Communicate with Him.

Let the word open more intimacy with God.

- Let the word bring you into a place of dialogue you.
- Seek confirmation that the word is from God.
- Ask for more insight about the word.

B. Pray for the fulfillment

If God speaks the word directly to you and you know it is from Him, then receive it as truth and pray from that perspective

- Don't ask Him for it, but call forth the promise instead. We agree and call it forth by declaration. Even if it is ten years out. Believe who He is in it.
- If we are still "asking" then we don't fully believe it yet.
- Even if we aren't fully confident, when we choose to step out and declare, it builds our faith. When we ask, it builds the doubt instead.
- And if we know we are receiving it, we thank Him for it. Thanking is another place of agreeing. It builds gratitude, which increases that face-to-face encounter with Him.

C. Record your prophetic words

- Write your personal prophecies in a place where it is easy to review them.
- If possible, keep an audio copy of prophecies that you have received. Sometimes we receive a special impartation by hearing which we might not be able to receive through writing or reading it.

D. Review them

- Those which have come to pass are reminders of God's faithfulness.
- Prophecies for your future can help strengthen you and keep you focused.

E. Make good use of the power of the prophecy

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight. 1 Timothy 1:18

- Personal prophecies helped Timothy focus his life and ministry calling

- Anchor your prophecy to scripture and pray and declare God's truth about your life. This will build your faith and counteract discouragement.
- Remember that God is sovereign—no one except we ourselves can stand in the way of a true word from God coming to pass.

F. Testing prophecy

Do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. 1Thess 5:19-21

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 1 Cor 14:29

- Be careful with considering a quick change of direction in response to a prophecy. Prophecy can easily relate to the distant future.
- Do not make any major life or directive decisions based on words given in this context unless confirmed by other sources of guidance. i.e. Scripture, spiritual authorities over your life, spouses and other family members, other sources of counsel, confirmations through personal peace, circumstances, witness by others involved with a decision, etc.
- Is Jesus at the Center of the message? The word reflects Jesus' character.
- Is the message biblical; does it align with scriptural principles?
- How does my heart receive what was said? Comfortable or uncomfortable? Sometimes a true word will feel uncomfortable.
- You are not obligated to receive the message. It is your choice.
- The word will mostly confirm what you have already sensed from God, or it is consistent with how God has created you (personality, how you think, etc.).
- Accountability. Is my church leadership or advisory board comfortable with the word?
- Timing. Sometimes we aren't sure if a word is from God until it is fulfilled.
- You may not immediately recognize if the prophecy is timely and relevant. Sometimes understanding and applying the prophecy remains a mystery in the current season. And only after a while you get understanding and encouragement - the puzzle pieces connected, and everything fell into place.
- From whom are you receiving the word?
 - Discern the good fruit in the life of the minister; Don't be impressed with charisma personality or prophetic giftedness. Look for integrity; You don't want prophecy which flatters you or seems to attract you to the person, instead of drawing you closer to Jesus.

G. Allow the Prophecy to Enlarge your Vision

- Prophetic words can stretch us—our view of how God feels about us, our identity, who God is, and what is possible through us when God ordains it.

- A personal prophecy is an invitation from the Father to see ourselves as He sees us.

Appendix C. Some Symbols' meanings¹⁷

1. Consider the Occupation/Relationship As a Symbol:

Baby – new: beginning, new idea, new work, helpless, innocent, sin, natural baby

Baker – instigator, one who cooks up ideas, originator

Bride – Church: covenant (good or evil)

Brother – self: spiritual or natural brother; someone he reminds you of

Carpenter – builder, preacher evangelist, laborer (good or evil)

Cartoon character – person: one who is like or is acting in the same way as the cartoon character. For example, Goofy, foolish, dumb actions

Clown – fool: foolish work of the flesh; childish

Doctor – healer: authority, Christ; preacher, medical doctor

Driver – control: self; Christ, pastor, teacher, the emphasis may be on the nature of the driver (careful, careless, frantic, confident, selfish, rude, kind, etc.) Passenger – self: church member; family member.

Employee – servant: fellow employee, self

Father – authority: God, author, source, inheritance

Father-in-law – law, legalism; problem relationship

Friend – self: revelation into oneself or person

Husband – authority: God or Christ, natural husband

Man (stranger) – angel, oneself, or a demon

Mother – source: church or natural mother; love; kindness

Mother-in-law – legalistic church; meddler, trouble

One's children – oneself or themselves: character or behavior reveals something about person dreaming

Witch – **witchcraft** – control, evil influence, seduction

Woman (stranger) – spirit: seducing spirit; temptation, deception, God's messenger (angel)

¹⁷ Resource: Milligan Ira, *Understanding the Dreams You Dream*, "Biblical Keys for Hearing God's Voice in the Night". Shippensburg, PA, Destiny Image, Publishers, Inc. 2000.

Dream Symbols: Water, Rivers, Oceans and Ice¹⁸

Water can represent aspects of **spiritual life**, while oceans often represent humanity. Beaches can symbolize people, because multitudes are compared to the grains of sand on a beach (see for example Genesis 22:17). But the beach can also represent a time of recreation, especially if you live near it.

Rivers can point to **moves of God** and it is important to recognize the context of the water. Is it moving fast or is it barely moving, almost still?

Ice and snow can represent things of the Spirit that are being **saved for later**.

Swimming

Swimming in water can represent the spiritual aspect of life. Although swimming can be good, notice the context of the water: is it clear or dirty, fast flowing or stagnant, or shallow or deep?

Context is key

The **context** of how you are swimming in water will **help you understand more** about what is happening with your spiritual life. Let's look at context using swimming as our example.

If you are swimming in *clear* water, it means that your spiritual life is refreshing and life-producing. Swimming in *dirty* water indicates that some issues might need to be addressed or healed. If you are swimming in *fast-flowing* water, get ready for things to accelerate and get really exciting. Swimming in *stagnant* water indicates that you may be stuck and need to start moving again. If the water is *shallow*, this indicates that you might be too comfortable and need a challenge. Swimming in *deep* water shows that you are maturing spiritually and possibly taking more risks.

Of course, remember that these are generalizations.

2. More Dream Symbols

Here are some more symbols you might have encountered:

Boat:	organizations or personal job or ministry, depending on the type of boat
Bridge:	transition, season change
Dam:	things being held back, power
Fish:	sport, people, gift to help others, outreach-oriented
Floods:	major move of the Spirit, cleansing of old ways, warning of disaster
Ice:	move of the Spirit that will come later, slippery time
Lighthouse:	spiritual guidance, keeps you from danger
Ocean, sea:	large move of the Spirit, humanity, great influence, many people
Oyster:	situation that may produce a spiritual blessing
Rain:	blessing, refreshing time in the spirit, unclear time, move of God
Swimming:	move in the spirit, recreation, spiritual life
Water:	the spirit, spiritual life, Holy Spirit, the spiritual realm, refreshment

Next steps:

I would challenge you to keep a **dream journal or a pad of paper next to your bed to write down your dreams right away**. When you encounter a dream with some aspect of water, ask God to help

¹⁸ Resource: Addison Doug, www.dougaddison.com

you with the interpretation and use these key symbols just to start. You can find out more about dreams in my book "Understand Your Dreams Now: Spiritual Dream Interpretation"¹⁹.

¹⁹ Addison Doug, www.dougaddison.com, *Understand Your Dreams Now: Spiritual Dream Interpretation*

Appendix D. Seasons Definitions²⁰

Seasons Definitions

Winter: cold difficult time of year, season of death to resurrection, hardship, hibernation, time to plan for a new season of life in the spring. There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under Heaven, Ecc 3. To dream of winter can indicate the threat of ill-health, depression, and hardship. The dream may be similar to how you are feeling – emotionally cold and frigid. For some, winter means their favorite time of the year indicating the holiday season of decorating, entertaining, eating lots of food at parties, delight, togetherness and charitable giving. For some winter is a time of deep reflection and spiritual introspection. Ps 74:17; Song of Songs 2:11. [A to Z Dream Symbology Dictionary]

Winter is associated with a shutting down, quiet reflection, recovery and rest. After taking in the harvest, accepting and receiving the outcome of what you planted in the spring and nurtured in the summer must be cured. What you gained from this process needs to be retained, or stored up, so you can better plant and nurture the following spring. It is the time between finishing and starting over again. Winter is about storing and preserving; remembering what you learned and appreciating what you have. [internet source]

Spring: A time of planting. Prepare the fields for the planting of the Word. A powerful releasing of the Spirit of the Lord that is seen and felt. An anointing springing forth that will be spread by the Wind of the Spirit. The need to be set free from a situation in life that has brought about great stress that has bound you. Jesus came to set the captives free, Luk 4:18; Zech 10:1. A new beginning, things are blooming and coming alive, a new harvest, young animals are born, a time to step into a new season of life, fruitfulness. [A to Z Dream Symbology Dictionary]

In the spring, the farmer spreads manure, turns the soil over, and then takes his best seeds and plants them. Spring is associated with birth, new beginnings, fertilization, and planting. Beginning or start of a cycle of time. [internet source]

Summer: To dream about summer represents a time of harvest, growth or fruitfulness, preparation time, knowledge, high productivity, tolerance and maturity. You are expanding your realm of understanding. It is important to keep your hopes alive. Usually speaks of the period of time when someone is in the middle of their life, they could be experiencing a mid-life crisis, but on the other hand it represents success and fruitfulness, a season of warmth and comfort where pleasures of friendship and vacations are at hand. Prov 6:8. [A to Z Dream Symbology Dictionary]

In the summer the farmer waters and weeds his fields. He labors in love as he inspects his fields daily with joy, because he anticipates a rich harvest. Summer can be associated with watering, weeding, blooming, and flourishing. Summer is a time of blooming flowers and lush

²⁰ Resource: Dr. Barbie L. Breathitt, *A to Z Dream Symbology Dictionary*. Copyright 2015–Barbie Breathitt Enterprises. All rights reserved. This book is protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged.

landscapes. It's a time full of life and buzzing energy. Gardeners tend the seeds they've planted, and enjoy watching them grow and bloom into something beautiful. It's like the middle of the day, the time from when you decided to start working on something to when you finish working on it. There is an outcome of any activity or time spent, and this outcome is your "harvest." [internet source]

Fall season: To dream of the Fall season indicates a transition of new change is transpiring in your life, the old is passing away and Spring is coming to bring a new outlook. You are called for such as time as this into the field of evangelism to reap the harvest souls, and store up treasures in heaven, the timing is critical. One of the four seasons when leafs fall down from the trees without restraint due to weight. Leaves represent the healing of the nations. Gal 6:9. [A to Z Dream Symbolology Dictionary]

Autumn: end of one season and the beginning of another, colors are changing, a falling away, season of rest for new growth, transition between summer and winter, prepare for a winter season, feeling mellow, a period of maturity or development verging on decline, "the autumn of one's life." Jer 8:20; Isai 64:6. [A to Z Dream Symbolology Dictionary]

Fall represents for the metaphorical harvest - the completion, finishing, the consequence and end result of anything you do. This is the time farmers are rewarded for their labor and reap their crop. [internet source]

Egypt, Wilderness

Egypt: the world, sinful flesh, world system, Pharaoh or Satan's works, philosophy of humanism, unsaved humanity; house of bondage. Ex 2:23; De 5:6; Ex 20:2. [A to Z Dream Symbolology Dictionary]

Wilderness: To hear the call of the wild or walk through the wilderness is an expression of new found freedom in a frontier or area of life you have not yet explored. You are in a season of discovery. This can also be a time of testing when God strengthens your faith. A place of safety and preservation for the true church where God is able to reveal Himself to further the saints spiritual preparation. Exo 3:18; Deut 8:1-16; Rev 12:6. The wilderness can also represent a godless forsaken world. Jer 4: 23-28. Rev 17:3. [A to Z Dream Symbolology Dictionary]

Appendix E. Simple Definitions of Common Symbols²¹

Dictionary of Symbols

The following dream symbols & their definitions are a compilation of my own experiences and thoughts as well as the works of the following men and women of God: "Dictionary of Dream Symbols" by Dr. Joe Ibojie, "Understanding Dreams & Visions Course 201" by John Paul Jackson, "Dream Language" by James W. & Michal Ann Goll, "Seers Handbook" by Sharnael Wolverton.

1. Colors

	<u>Positive definition</u>	<u>Negative definition</u>
Red	– wisdom, anointing, & power	– anger, war
Blue	– revelation, communion	– depression, sorrow, anxiety
Green	– growth, prosperity, conscious	– envy, jealousy, pride
Brown	– compassion, humility	– compromise, humanism
Gold/amber	– purity, glory, holiness	– idolatry, defilement, licentiousness
Purple	– authority, royalty	– false authority
Orange	– perseverance	– stubbornness
Silver	– redemption, grace	– legalism
Yellow	– hope, mind	– fear, cowards, intellectual pride
Pink	– childlike, love of God	– childishness
Gray	– maturity, honor, wisdom	– weakness
White	– righteousness, holiness	– religious spirit
Black	– death, mystery	– sin, darkness

2. Numbers

- 1 – God, Beginning, Source Unity (Gen 1:1; Eph 4:4-6; Jn 10:30; Jn 17:21-22)
- 2 – Multiplication/division/ union/ confirmation/ testimony/ witness (Gen 2:23-24; Matt 18:16; Kings 3:24-25; Gen 1:7-8)
- 3 – Godhead (Triune God) / Divine Completeness/perfection/resurrection/restoration (Mt 12:40; Mt 28:19; Ezek. 14:14-18)
- 4 – God's creative works/ rule or to reign (Gen 1:14-19)
- 5 – Grace/redemption/ fivefold ministry (Eph 4:11; Gen 1:20-23)
- 6 – Man, beast, Satan (Gen 1:26-27)
- 7 – Perfection/completion/Rest/Blessing (Gen 2:1-3; Rev 10:7; Rev 16:17; Dt 15:1-2)
- 8 – New Beginnings (Teacher) (Gen 17:12; Lk 2:21-23; 1Pet 3:20)

²¹ Resource: Mann Autumn, *Unlocking Your Dreams Course & Manual*. <http://www.unlockingyourdreams.org/>
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- 9** – Judgment (Evangelist)/ finality / fullness/Harvest (Gal 5:22-23; 1Cor.12:8-10; Mt 27:45)
- 10** – Journey/ Wilderness/ law/ government/ responsibility (Pastor) (Ex 34:28)
- 11** – Transition (Prophet) (Dan 7:24; Gen 32:22)
- 12** – Government/apostolic fullness (Apostle) (Lk 6:12-13; Mt 19:28)
- 13** – Rebellion/ backsliding/ apostasy (Gen14:4; 1 Kings 11:6)
- 14** – Double anointing (Mt 1:17)
- 15** – Reprieve/ mercy (Lev 23:34-35; Ester 9:20-22)
- 16** – Established beginnings/ love (1Cor 13:4-8)
- 17** – Election/Immaturity/ Transition/ Victory (Gen 47:28)
- 25** – Begin ministry training
- 30** – Begin ministry (Num 4:3-4; Gen 41:46; 2Sam 5:4)
- 111** – My Beloved Son
- 666** – Full lawlessness
- 888** – Resurrection
- 10,000** – Maturity

3. Buildings & Places

Note the size and purpose of the building.

House – a ministry, a church, a personal life situation, your life or family

Dream about a previous home – could be related to the color, place or memory

Buying, or living in, the house of a known person in the ministry – God has a similar call on your life

Two-story house – double anointing

Castle – authority, fortress, royal residence

Barn/warehouse – a place of provision & storage

Mall – market place, provision for all needs in 1 place. Negative – self centeredness, materialism

Stadium – place of tremendous impact

School, Classroom – Training period, a place of teaching; a ministry with teaching anointing

Elevator – rising or descending of anointing

Staircase – up or down in the spirit (anointing); Can speak of portals

Foundation – Important foundational issues

High-rise buildings – high spiritual calling or high spiritual perspective

Hotel – transition, temporary, place to relax or receive

Country General Store – provision, basics, staples

Mobile home – temporary place & condition, It is going to move or can move, Can represent poverty

Tent – temporary place of rest. Meeting place with God

Amphitheater – something is going to be magnified

Theater – going to be shown something, or visibility is increasing

Windows – vision, letting light in

Atrium – light & growth from heaven

Garden – love, intimacy, growth

Front porch – vision or future

Back porch – history or past

Hallway – transition that is usually direct or without deviation

Hospital – place of healing

Garage – place to rest & refresh. Place of protection. A covering for ministries.

Auto repair shop – ministry restoration, renewal & repair

Gas station – to receive power`

Office building – getting things accomplished. Depends on what's in the building

Roof – spiritual covering

Shack – poverty

Farm – place of provision

Disney – Place of extravagance in God. Not in Reality. Disillusionment.

4. Rooms in a House

Bathroom – place of cleansing, spiritual toxins removed

Bathroom in full view – humbling season: others aware of cleansing

Kitchen – preparing spiritual food

Restaurant kitchen – greater influence or impact

Dining Room/Eating – partaking of spiritual food, fellowship

Attic – History, past issues, family history

Basement – hidden issues, foundation, basics

Bedroom – intimacy & rest

5. Animals

Alligator – Ancient, evil out of the past, danger, destruction, evil spirit, or slander & gossip (big mouth), aggression

Bat- Witchcraft, unstable, flighty, fear.

Bear – judgment; strength; an evil spirit that wants something you have

Polar Bear – Religious Spirit

Beaver – Industrious, busy, diligent, clever ingenious

Bird – Symbol of spirits, good or evil

Bull – Persecution, spiritual warfare, opposition, accusation, slander, threat, economic increase

Cat – self-willed, untrainable, predator, unclean spirit, bewitching charm, stealthy, sneaky, deception, something precious in the context of a personal pet.

Black Cat – witchcraft

Cheetah – swift, fast, predator, danger; Can be play on word for “Cheater”.

Chicken – Fear, cowardliness; hen can be protection, gossip, motherhood; rooster can be boasting, bragging, proud; chick can be defenseless, innocent.

Colt – represents bearing the burden of others or could be a portrayal of stubbornness

Crab – not easy to approach

Crow (raven) – confusion, outspoken, operating in envy or strife, hateful, unclean, God’s minister of justice or provision

Cow – subsistence, prosperity

Deer – Graceful, swift, sure-footed, agile, timid

Dog – Unbelievers, religious hypocrites, loyalty, friendship, faithfulness

Donkey – gentle strength, burden bearer, negative – stubborn

Dove – Holy Spirit

Dragon – Satan

Dinosaur – old stronghold, demonic, danger from the past (generational stronghold)

Eagle – prophetic, prophetic calling

Elephant – Invincible or thick skinned, not easily offended, powerful, large, having great impact, storing memory, old memory, long pregnancy

Fish – souls of men

Fox – cunning, evil men, sly, sneaky, something that steals from you

Frog – Spirit of Lust

Goat – No discernment, positive: prosperity in some cultures

Hare – fast, hasty, quick

Hen – One who gathers, protects

Horse – Power, strength, conquest

Leopard – swiftness, sometimes associated with vengeance, predator, danger

Lion – Jesus “Lion of the tribe of Judah”; Royalty & Kingship bravery, confidence, Satan seeking to destroy

Lobster – not easy to approach

Mice – Devourer, curse, plague, timid

Mole – spiritual blindness, hidden

Monkey – foolishness, clinging, mischief, dishonesty, addiction

Mountain Lion – enemy, predator of your soul

Octopus – Jezebel Spirit because of the tentacles

Ox - slow change, subsistence

Black Panther - high level witchcraft, demonic activity, works in darkness

Pig – Ignorance, hypocrisy, religious unbelievers, unclean people, selfish, gluttonous, vicious, vengeful

Raccoon – Mischief, night raider, rascal, thief, bandit, deceitful

Ram – Sacrifice

Rat – feeds on garbage or impurities, unclean spirit, invader

Raven – Evil, Satan

Serpent – Satan & evil spirits

Sheep – The people of God, innocent, vulnerable; humility, submission, sacrifice

Skunk – stench, smell, messy situation, unforgiveness, bitterness, bad attitude

Sloth – Slow Moving, easy prey, vulnerable

Snake – Deception, lies, Satan, unforgiveness, bitterness

White Snake – Spirit of religion, occult

Sparrow – Small value but precious

Tiger – Danger, powerful minister (both good & evil), soul power

Tortoise – Slow moving, slow change, steady, old way of doing something, wise

Whale – Big impact in the things of the Spirit

Wolf – Satan and evil, false ministries & false teachers

6. Insects

Bee/hornet- painful, strong demonic attack

Butterfly – freedom, flighty, fragile temporary glory, transformation

Flies – evil spirits, filth of Satan's kingdom. Beelzebub - "Lord of the flies", live on dead things, occultic

Grasshopper – destruction

Moth – symbol of destruction

Roach – Infestation, unclean spirits, hidden sin

Scorpion – Evil spirits, evil men, pinch of pain

Spider – occultic attack, witchcraft

Spider Web – place of demonic attack, ensnaring, a trap

7. Directions

East – Beginning: Law (therefore blessed or cursed); birth; first. Gen 11:2; Job 38:24

North – Spiritual: Judgment; heaven; spiritual warfare (as in "taking your inheritance"). Prov 25:23; Jer. 1:13-14.

South – Natural: Sin; world; temptation; trial; flesh; corruption; deception. Josh. 10:40; Job 37:9.

West – End: Grace; death; last; conformed. Exod. 10:19; Luke 12:54.

Right – Natural; Authority; power; the strength of man (flesh) or the power of God revealed through man; accepted. (Right Turn = natural change). Matt 5:29a, 30a; 1 Peter 3:22.

Left – Spiritual: Weakness (of man), and therefore God's strength or ability; rejected. (Left Turn = spiritual change). Judg 3:20-21; 2 Cor. 12:9, 10.

Back – Past: As in BACKYARD or BACKDOOR. Previous event or experience (good or evil); that which is behind (in time – for example, past sins or the sins of forefathers); unaware; unsuspecting; hidden; memory. Gen. 22:13; Josh. 8:4.

Front – Future or Now: (as in FRONT YARD) in the presence of; prophecy; immediate; current.
Gen.6:11; Rev.1:19.

8. Weather

Storms - look at the color. Light in color can be from God. Dark can be trouble from the enemy.

Turbulent times, judgment

Tornadoes - winds of change (negative or positive depending on the color of the tornadoes).

Destructive times coming, judgment, drastic change, danger

Wind – Positive: Holy Spirit; Negative: adversity

Rain – Blessing, cleansing (clear rain), from enemy (dirty rain)

Earthquake – judgment or shaking

Snow – Blessing, refreshing, righteousness, purity

Blizzard – inability to see, storm with the purpose of blinding you

9. Body Parts

Thigh – faith

Nose – discernment

Hand – relationship, healing

Arm – strength, faith

Teeth – wisdom, comprehension, understanding

Eye Teeth – revelatory understanding

Wisdom teeth – ability to act in wisdom

Immobilized Body Parts – some sort of spiritual hindrance probably under demonic attack

Beard – Maturity

Hair – wisdom & anointing

Bald Head – lacking wisdom

Nakedness – transparency, humility, humbling season,

Neck – Negative: stiff necked or stubborn. Positive: support or strength

Side – relationship, friendship

Fingers:

Thumb – apostolic

Pointer – prophetic

Middle – evangelistic

Ring – pastor

Pinky – teaching

10. Miscellaneous

Pregnancy – in process of reproducing, preparatory stage, the promise of God, the Word of God as seed, prophetic word, desire, anticipation, expectancy, filled with the purposes of God that are preparing to come forth.

Miscarriage – to lose something at the preparatory stage, whether good or bad, plans aborted.

Television – spiritual sight & understanding, entertainment, fleshly cravings & desires, dull spirit

Money – gain or loss of favor; negative – greed

Check – favor

Credit Card – attempting to walk in something that you don't have yet; debt; lack of trust

Repeating activities: God establishing a matter or issue; repeating because you are not listening

Trees – leaders, mature believers, steady

Flying – call or ability of move in the higher things of God, understanding into the spirit realm of God

Life seasons - may include former places you have been/lived, and/or former schools, tests, jobs, something significant about that season

Kiss – Coming into agreement, covenant, seductive process, enticement, deception or betrayal, betrayal from a trusted friend.

Gate – spiritual authority, entrance point for good or evil

Key – spiritual authority

11. Weapons & Objects

Knife – brutal attack or gossip; if you are holding it, than form of protection

Sword – Word of God, further reaching, authority

Gun – spiritual authority good or bad, spiritual attack

Dart – curses, demonic attack, Positive – accuracy

Arrow – negative: accusation from the enemy. Positive: blessing of children, focused message, “shooting an arrow” with your life

Shield – faith, protection, God's truth, faith in God

Crown – symbol of authority, seal of power, Jesus Christ, to reign, to be honored

12. Clothing

Coat – mantle/anointing

Swimwear – ability to move in the Spirit

Speedo – to move fast in the spirit

Shorts – a walk or calling that is partially fulfilled

Bathrobe – coming out of a place of cleansing

Pajamas – spiritual slumber

Cultural clothing – calling to another country or intercession for a particular country or ethnic group

Wedding Dress – covenant or deep relationship

Shoes – Gospel of peace

Clothing that doesn't fit – Walking in something you're not called to

Tattered Clothing – Mantle/anointing not being taken care of

13. Transportation

Airplane – able to go to heights in the Spirit (prophetic); Can relate to the church, ministry or corporation; Size & type of plane correlates to interpretation

Automobile – personal ministry, your destiny or life.

Convertible – open heaven in your personal ministry or job

Bus – church or ministry

Truck – ability to transport or deliver

Semi-truck – transporting amounts

Tow Truck – ministry of helps or gathering the wounded

Fire Truck – rescue, putting out fires of destruction

Moving Van – transition, change

Tractor – slow power, may speak about need to plow

Bicycle – Individual ministry or calling requiring perseverance

Motorcycle – fast, powerful, maneuverable

Fred Flintstone Car – human effort

Mickey Mouse Car – purpose is colorful & entertaining

Armored Car – protection of God

Taxi Cab – a shepherd or hireling for someone (driving). Paying the price to get where you are going (passenger)

Stagecoach – rough, difficult ride

Rollercoaster – Positive – a wild ride that God is directing, exciting, but temporary. Negative - A path of destruction that has the appearance of exciting at first

Limousine – being taken to your destiny in style. Negative – materialism

Train – a movement of God

Coal car – on track, being directed by the Lord

Hang glider – going somewhere in the Spirit; being driven by the wind of the spirit

Mini Van – family

Ocean liner – impacting large numbers of people

Tugboat – providing assistance, ministry of helps

Sailboats – powered by wind of the Spirit

Riverboat – Slow, but impacting many people

Speedboat – fast, exciting, power in the Spirit

Submarine – undercover & active, not seen by many

Subway – undercover & active, but not seen by many

Helicopter – mobile, flexible, able to get in Spirit quickly

Chariot – major spiritual encounter

Spaceship – to the outer limits spiritually speaking

14. People

Baby – New ministry or responsibility that has recently been birthed. New beginning, new idea, dependent, helpless, innocent, sin

Twins – double blessing/anointing. Negative – double trouble

Mob – false accusation

Harlot / Prostitute – a tempting situation; something that appeals to your flesh; worldly desire; a demon

Hijacker – enemy wanting to take control of you or a situation; positive – God taking control

Husband – Jesus Christ, actual person

Lawyer – Jesus Christ (our advocate); the accuser of the brethren (Satan); pertaining to legalism; mediator

Prisoner – a lost soul

Shepherd – Jesus Christ, God; leader, good or bad; selfless person, protector

Carpenter – Jesus, someone who makes or mends things, a preacher

Bride – Christ's church, Covenant or relationship

Giant – Godly men, strong, conquer; Demons, defilement

Policemen – Authority for good or evil; protector; spiritual authority

15. Food Items

Apples – spiritual fruit, temptation, something precious like the apple of God's eyes

Tomato – Kindness, the heart of God, big hearted, very generous

Strawberries – goodness, excellence in nature & virtue, healing, sweet & very humble

Lemons – sour, a poor sport

Pears – long life, enduring much without complaining

Manna – God's miraculous provision, coming directly from God, glory of God, bread of life.

Bread – Jesus Christ, bread of life, Word of God, source of nourishment, God's provision

Wine – working of the Spirit of God, Move of God, Negative – drunkenness, love of the world

Meat – something meant for the spiritually mature, depth in God's word

Milk – Good nourishment, elementary teaching

Water – Holy Spirit, refreshing, Word of God

Eggs – promise of God. Prayers yet to be fulfilled. Something that has not yet "hatched" or come into being.

Grapes – Fruitfulness, success in life, fruit of the vine, evidence of being connected to Christ

Honey – Sweet, strength, wisdom, Spirit of God, abiding anointing, sweet Word of our Lord, the best of the land, abundance