



living waters
Abide™
MINISTRIES

CALLED TO BE PROPHETS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE IN THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD
WORKBOOK



Also used for
Retreat/Small Group Leader Guide

CALLED TO BE PROPHETS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE IN THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Participant

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

To my wife, Linda, who has served as a wonderful prophet for our marriage, family, business, and ministry. She understands that we are all called to be Prophets—speaking the truth into personal situations and relating what is to come as the Lord so speaks. She further understands that this is all based on hearing God speak, relating what God speaks without adding her own stuff, and then processing the truth with me and others to have the Father confirm what He is speaking. It is a privilege to live this way with a partner who serves God's work in this way.

We together also wish to honor our family who have all learned to serve as prophets—a true joy to experience the power and life of this together. They are all such inspiration.

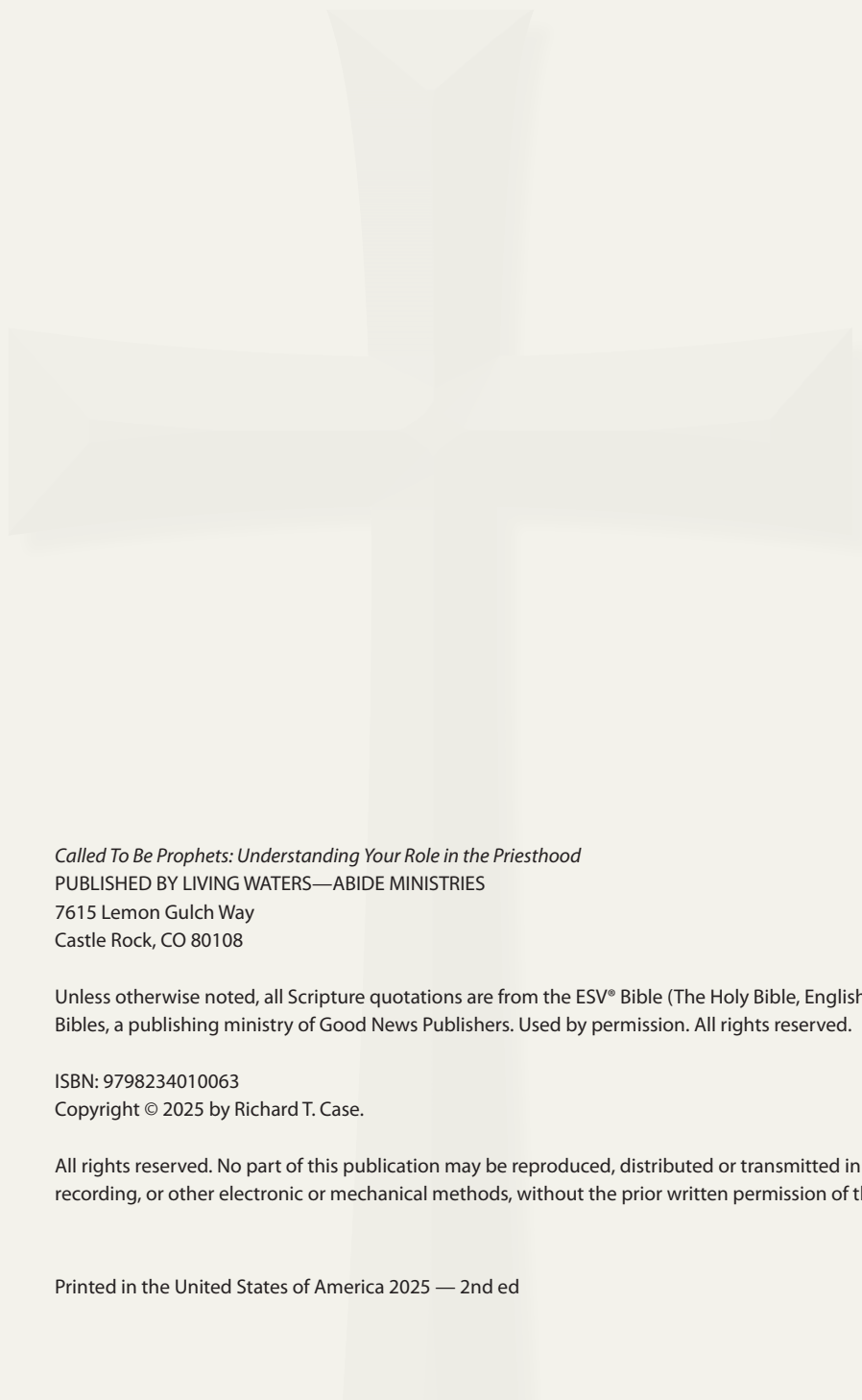
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Acknowledgments

We wish to honor all of the leaders of our **Abide Ministries**. As each person and each couple have learned to live in the prophetic. They freely enjoy this privilege in their personal lives and then are teaching others the beauty and importance of living in the prophetic. We all have such joy as we experience the power of this and also the fun of this as our lives are full of adventure and surprises. This is truly building the body of Christ in this most important life of Christ—Him speaking and we serving as prophets to each other.

These leaders are:

Jake and Mary Beckel
Caden and Lauren Cardie
Colton and Alicia Cardie
Heath and Rebecca Cardie
Rich and Janet Cocchiaro
Larry and Sherry Collet
Katherine Cornell
Scott and Kristen Cornell
Dom and Dawn Deluca
David and Melissa Dunkel
Tom and Susanne Ewing
Rick and Kelly Ferris
Joel and Christina Gunn
Brad and Latisha Hawkins
Rick and Nancy Hoover
Jeff and Angela Lemond
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Don and Rachelle Light
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Chris and Heidi May
Rich and Kathy Meringolo
Preston and Lynda Pitts
John and Brenda Presko
Dan and Kathy Rocconi
Bob and Keri Rockwell
Steve and Carolyn VanOoteghem
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LESSON 1

FOUNDATION



The first major thing we need to understand, which is kind of foreign to most believers, is that life with God is always experienced in heaven and on earth.

Welcome to *Called to Be Prophets*. This is a really profound and important understanding of our role as believers to also work into the prophetic. There's a significant basis in scriptural understanding of why God calls us to be prophets, what it means to be called a prophet, and how we fulfill the calling of a prophet.

When you think of a prophet, what do you tend to think of? Typically, we think of a specific person who has been given a gift of being a prophet, partly because of our understanding of the Old Testament—that the people who served as prophets were specific individuals. So we think, “Isn’t that the way it operates now? Aren’t there gifted people who are prophets, and the rest of us aren’t? And all we’re supposed to do is receive it?”

God is going to show us something different. Interestingly enough, we’re ALL called to be prophets—and this course will show you how.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: PERSONAL REFLECTION

As you start this course, take some time to reflect on these questions. They will serve as context for what we do throughout:

1. What revelation has God given you personally lately about yourself, your business, your church, or anything involving your life?

2. What decisions or issues do you need God to reveal things to you—what we might call unresolved issues where you really don’t know yet what God is saying?

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Abide Ministries,
please see our pages
at the back of the workbook

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3. Are there any bigger issues about future assignments, big moves, or big changes that you need to make?

HEAVEN AND EARTH AS A UNIT

The first major thing we need to understand, which is kind of foreign to most believers, is that life with God is always experienced in heaven and on earth. We always think, “Well, we’re here on earth.” And when we think of heaven, what do we tend to think of? It’s up there somewhere. And when we die, we go to heaven. We operate here, and when we die, we go there.

Interesting enough, actually, they’re a unit and we live in that unit. So let’s look at that.

- **From the following scriptures:** When we think of heaven, what do we tend to think of—and where do we assume we’re going when we die?

Isaiah 65:17-19 ESV

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.”

—Isaiah 65:17-19 ESV

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So He says, “I create”—what? A new heaven and a new earth. And of course, this is referring to what we’re going to get to: ultimately, it’s going to all be replaced and it’ll be a great place. But He connects a new heaven and a new earth. They’re a unit because He creates it that way.

Genesis 1:1-2, 31; 2:1-3 ESV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

—**Genesis 1:1-2 ESV**

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

—**Genesis 1:31; 2:1-3 ESV**

So in the beginning He created what? Heaven and earth. And see, He always attaches those together as a unit. Throughout Scripture, He refers to this a lot— heaven and earth, heaven and earth. He says it’s a unit. That’s how He created it. By the way, when He looked at what He created, He said what? “Exceptionally good.” And they were together exceptionally good. He created this place to be lived in together.

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Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

—**Revelation 21:1-4 ESV**

So He says, "I'm going to create a new"—what? Heaven. And a new earth. Because He destroyed what? The old one.

Now just think of the simplicity of that. If heaven was His permanent residence and that's where we go when we die, well, then how could He destroy it? He couldn't. He would say, "I destroy Earth and create a new earth connected to heaven." But He says He destroyed BOTH of them. Why? Because it's a unit. And He creates a new unit.

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And He said, by the way, “That’s where I’m going to dwell. We’re going to dwell together in this new heaven and new earth.” The neat thing about this is when we live in eternity, where are we going to live? We’re going to be back on earth! It’s going to be a physical place. It’s really interesting what life is going to be. It’s not going to be strumming harps in some limbo. It’s actually physically going to be back here with our new body. So that’s a whole other series—we won’t get to that right now.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If God destroys both heaven and earth to create them new, what does that tell you about how they function together?

2. If heaven and earth are a unit, what changes about where you’re supposed to live and operate right now?

JESUS AND THE KINGDOM

- **From the following scriptures:** When Jesus teaches us to pray, what does He tell us to ask for regarding God’s will?

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

—Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

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So Jesus, when He says the prayer, says you ask for what? The kingdom to come. So you are to operate in the kingdom—it's not automatic, by the way. And then that His will would be done WHERE? On earth. As it is in heaven.

See, it's a unit. It's in both places, and they're connected. So we are to understand and follow His will, because He created heaven and earth as a unit. Basically, how do we live in that place where we can live in both places at the same time?

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

He refers to it that, okay, we're going to enter the church age. And your role is to do what? Make disciples—teaching them to walk with Him. That's what He says. Basically teaching them to observe and live and understand what it means to be connected to Him, abiding with Him, living out His life. Because He says all authority has been given to Him. Where? In heaven AND earth.

So He says, why did He make that statement? Well, that's where it operates—in the unit of heaven and earth. And now He has authority over that.

And by the way, it didn't mean that the enemy's authority was completely gone, because he still has authority over the earth all by itself. Christ has authority over the earth AND the heavens, as it's now going to function together—superior to that kingdom of just the world. So keep thinking: heaven and earth is a unit, and they're together. And our question is, well, what does that mean to us?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”—what does that tell you about where you’re supposed to be operating?

2. Jesus has all authority in heaven AND on earth. If you’re going to teach others to observe all He commanded, what must first be true of you?

GOD’S AUTHORITY OVER BOTH REALMS

- **From the following scriptures:** If God’s ministers are to operate in His kingdom, where exactly does that kingdom operate?

Psalms 103:19-22 ESV

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

—Psalms 103:19-22 ESV

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So remember, Scripture is really kind of simple. He says, “I’m established in heaven with authority over the earth—authority over BOTH places.” He says His ministers, which we’ll see includes us, are to operate in that place. The hosts operate obviously in heaven, and they’ve got to operate in earth if they have any effect. And He says, “All of you will be in that same place to receive the power and the strength that I have, which is exercised in that place of heaven and earth—my kingdom.”

Psalm 119:89-95 ESV

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants... I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

—**Psalm 119:89-91, 93 ESV**

So again He says His kingdom operates WHERE? In heaven and on earth. And it’s going to be by His word that’s going to provide conclusions and understanding which are coming from Him in that place. “I’m going to speak to you from heaven into your earthly situations because you operate in both places.”

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If the hosts and ministers operate in both heaven and earth, and you're called to be a minister, what does that tell you about where you're supposed to be functioning?

2. God's word is "firmly fixed in the heavens" and speaks into your "earthly situations." How should that shape the way you receive His direction?

CHRIST'S PREMINENCE AND RECONCILIATION

- **From the following scripture:** When Paul describes what Christ created and what He's reconciling, what two realms does he keep connecting?

Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

—Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

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So He said Christ created what? All of it. All things on earth and heaven. So He calls it a unit. He created all that, and He's superior to all that. He's the head of all that. And He describes it: "I have the power." And then He says His purpose is to reconcile all things—WHERE? Both in heaven and on earth.

If you look at the essence of what that means: He created it as a unit, and Adam and Eve lived in that place—they lived in both places. He said, "If you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and disobey me, you will surely"—what? DIE! You lost the spiritual connectivity of the heavenly place. It was naturally theirs.

And Christ said, "Okay, I've come to restore that at the cross." And then, as He tells Nicodemus, you must be what? Born again. And have that connectivity, because you're living there now and you can go back to living in both places. And He says, "If you walk with me"—this, by the way, attaches to John 10:10: "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." He says super abundant life is reconciling all of that back, because you're living in a destructive place, but He's superior to it.

And that's why He talks about "all things." He said, "Don't just think natural. It's everything. Heaven and earth coming back together. I created it, I'm superior to it, and I'm putting it back together"—by the way, through WHO? Through us. And it's not automatic. The only time it'll be automatic will be at the end when He says, "I just created a whole new thing." But in the meantime, because you gave away the authority, Satan has authority over earth. But he's inferior to Christ's power. "I'm going to restore it all together on heaven and on earth."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Christ is reconciling "all things, whether on earth or in heaven." If He's doing that work through us, what must be happening in our lives?

2. Adam and Eve lost the spiritual connectivity of the heavenly place through disobedience. Through Christ, what has been restored to you?

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CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST

Well, how did that happen? He's the high priest, and He fulfilled something. This is a little bit lengthy, but a critical piece to understand. I would urge you, if you have the time, to really read through the depth of Hebrews 8, 9, and 10. It describes how this came together.

- **From the following scriptures:** In the Holy of Holies, there was no seat for the high priest. Why not? And what does it mean that Christ "sat down"?

Hebrews 8:1-2, 6-7 ESV

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

—Hebrews 8:1-2 ESV

Hebrews 8:8-12 ESV

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

—Hebrews 8:10-12 ESV

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Hebrews 9:11-15 ESV

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

—Hebrews 9:11-12, 14-15 ESV

Hebrews 9:24-26 ESV

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

—Hebrews 9:24-26 ESV

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Hebrews 10:11-14, 17-18 ESV

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

—**Hebrews 10:11-14 ESV**

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

—**Hebrews 10:17-18 ESV**

You can see how significant this is. He goes into a great discussion: mankind had a problem because of what Adam and Eve did. The sin nature came, and they lost their spiritual connectivity to God. And now the requirement was perfection because of God’s holiness. Because of their sin nature, could they or their offspring—which includes us—ever be perfect? We couldn’t get there.

So in essence, because of the requirement, God really lost His opportunity to have relationship with His creation. So He developed through Israel a system of sacrifice. And this is very profound: blood represents life, and the sacrifice represented the opportunity to cover—to be a propitiation—to take care of the problem of sin by providing death to life, so that those who receive that could have life.

So the priest would go into the Holy of Holies—by the way, the HIGH priest. He’s the only one who could go in. And he would sacrifice an unblemished lamb. He’d do it for himself first, then for his family second, and then for the nation third, and say, “I have now atoned for your sin.”

Now, the Jews who had to come—what did they have to do to receive that? They had to sacrifice. They brought unblemished lambs and a variety of different unblemished animals. And because a lot of them traveled pretty far, they came

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and bought them at the temple. Do you remember when Jesus entered the temple and overturned the tables? "You've turned my house of prayer into a den of thieves!" All you care about is money you're making from the sacrifices, and you've lost the whole essence of why we're even doing this.

But they had to join it by them sacrificing an unblemished lamb. Now, by the way, how long did that last? One year. It was only yearly because it wasn't permanent. In the Holy of Holies, there was no seat. There was no place for him to sit down. And sitting down always reflected what? FINISHED. Were they able to finish that sacrifice? No.

Christ said, "Well, I came and I became BOTH the high priest—the ability to execute the sacrifice—AND the sacrifice. I was both the high priest and the sacrificial lamb. And I offered myself and went to death on my own volition." And He makes a statement: He did it ONCE AND FOR ALL.

Remember, when He was on the cross, He said, "It is"—what? "FINISHED." Once and for all. And He said when He did that once and for all—by the way, otherwise He'd have to be doing it all the time—"I've done it once and for all." For what? For EVERYBODY.

And then He said, "I sat down." Where? At the right hand of God. "I'm finished. I'm there. I'm with God, I'm with the Father. And we never have to do this again. Now it's about you having to sacrifice—surrender your will—and process the truth."

"And then you join me in my life. And I want to give you that super abundant life. And if you choose not to, you never receive the opportunity to have relationship, and you'll die separated from Him in eternity. And He can't alter that because that's the solution."

And what did He say? "I became the mediator and I established the covenant: 'I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing.' And I actually fulfilled it on both sides of it. Why? I put myself within you. I do both sides. And the only thing that can keep you from receiving it is you reject walking with me. You have the Holy Spirit, and I've done it. And I'm going to put my ability for you to follow me inside of you. And all you've got to do is have a heart to go."

This is why the prophetic is so critical. Think about it: in essence, the prophetic is asking, "Are you walking with God?" If yes, "Okay, let me help you discern His will." That's what you want to enjoy. And by the way, He delights in giving you His will, and He wants you to delight in that. If you say, "Are you walking with God?" and you say no—is it prophetic? What would you do? Well, let me help you join what you already have the privilege of joining.

So do you see the setup and how beautiful it is? Christ fulfilled it all, finished it all, sat down at the right hand of the Father.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus said “It is finished” and sat down at the right hand of the Father, what exactly was finished?

2. If Christ fulfilled both sides of the covenant—blessing you to make you a blessing—what’s the only thing that can keep you from receiving it?

THE VEIL TORN / ACCESS GRANTED

- **Before you read:** Remember who could go into the Holy of Holies? And what happened when Christ died?

When Jesus died, God tore the veil of the Holy of Holies. Does this have anything to do with what we just discussed?

Remember who could go in? Only the high priest. And interesting enough, because he’s the only one who could go in, they tied a rope around his leg—in case he died or something, they had to pull him out. Nobody could go in and get him because there was a separation of the rest of the people with that place.

When Christ died, the veil—the curtain—was 80 feet high and 80 inches thick. It tore from top to bottom, so it couldn’t have been a bunch of people who got up and tried to rip it. It was torn by God.

And you can read this in Hebrews—actually, if we kept reading in Hebrews 10:19-25, it says because of that, you now have access. WHO? Everybody. Everybody who is now a believer—you have direct access. He said, “By the way, go in with boldness and confidence. Let’s go. And you always walk into the Holy of Holies with me, because that’s where I’m at. And join me in that place.”

Yeah, it’s very significant. It opened it up for everybody.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The veil was 80 feet high and 80 inches thick, and it tore from top to bottom. What does that tell you about who opened it?

2. If you now have bold access to enter the Holy of Holies with Christ, are you using that access—or are you still acting like there's a veil?

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES

- **From the following scripture:** When you became a believer, where does Paul say you are seated? Pay attention to the verb tense.

Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

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So He says, as a believer—because you have received the truth and now become a believer—you ARE seated WHERE? In heaven with Him. With Him at the right hand of the Father.

Now think about that. It doesn't say "will be" when you die, it'll happen. He says you ARE. When you're a believer, you ARE having this opportunity to sit with Him in the heavenly places. Why? Because heaven and earth is a unit. He's sitting there. He says, "Join me in that same place."

To do what? Enjoy the riches of His grace. To fulfill—and you're His workmanship personally. And then to fulfill what He has planned for you, which is to execute the opportunities to live in heaven and on earth together and help others do the same thing. And that will be the good work—which will be His assignments. And it all emanates from you sitting with Him at the right hand of the Father.

So He's there. We read that, right? He said, "Well, so are you." Great! We've got to learn what that means.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul doesn't say you WILL BE seated with Christ—he says you ARE seated. What changes if you actually believe that's true right now?

2. If you're seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father while still living on earth, where do your assignments and power come from?

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THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

- **From the following scripture:** What does it mean that God is the “fountain of life” and we “feast on the abundance of His house”?

Psalm 36:5-9 ESV

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

—Psalm 36:5-9 ESV

So what does He say? He says, “In me is”—what? LIFE. “I want you to enjoy that life, and that life emanates from you fulfilling the walking with me to have me give you.” And He says loving kindness and tender mercies is covenant loyalty. “I want to deliver the covenant that comes from emanating from heaven and earth together.”

So He said, “I need you to receive it. And it’s a fountain of life coming from the heavenly place so that we can enjoy that here on this physical earth.” And He said, “Enjoy that life. It’s fantastic. It’s abundant and it’s pleasurable. And I want you to enjoy it.”

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EXPERIENCING GOD IN THE SANCTUARY

- **From the following scripture:** Where does David say he experiences God's power and glory?

Psalm 63:2-5 ESV

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

—**Psalm 63:2-5 ESV**

He says, "I'm going to experience you"—WHERE? In the sanctuary. Where's that? The throne room. Seated at the right hand of the Father. That's where that heavenly place is. And by the way, if you go back to Hebrews, he actually talks about the sanctuary. That's the place of God. That's the dwelling place of God.

So He said, "You join me in that, and then you'll start to experience the glory, the power, the covenant—everything that I have for you. Because I need you to receive this life. And it emanates from you being with me at the right hand of the Father." And it's a spiritual activity, and we'll see what that looks like. And by the way, how important the prophetic is to that process. So He said, "Receive it."

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GREATNESS, POWER, AND GLORY

- **From the following scripture:** What does David say belongs to God—and where does it operate?

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ESV

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

—1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ESV

So He said this life of God is where heaven and earth are. He says, “I get to participate in that and enjoy that—its splendor, its majesty, its power, riches, honor—the abundant life.” And He says, “Why don’t you come and thoroughly enjoy that?”

By the way, we have a course called Living the Grand Life, which goes into great depth about this. God says, “Think about what you’re reading here, children. I’m pretty spectacular. I can’t do anything else.” See, it’s not about, “I’m groveling in my mediocre life, and I guess that’s my lot in life.” God says, “Well, why don’t you come and join me? Because I’m spectacular. I’m splendor, I’m majesty.”

“If you join me in the throne room, in the Holy of Holies, seated at the right hand of the Father—while you’re living on earth—the kingdom that’s there on earth and my kingdom that’s in heaven, which is joined together—you automatically will experience”—what? Splendor and majesty and power and might. Why? Because that’s who God is. That’s why it’s so critical.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God says, “I’m spectacular. I’m splendor, I’m majesty. Why don’t you come and join me?” What keeps most believers from accepting that invitation?

2. If you join Him in the throne room while living on earth, you “automatically will experience splendor and majesty and power.” What does “automatically” mean for your daily life?

CALLED TO BE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Now He says, because of that, “I have an assignment for you.”

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Peter, who is called to be a royal priesthood—and what question should that raise?

1 Peter 2:4-10 ESV

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

—1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

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You're called to be WHAT? A royal priesthood. You're called to be a priest. You're called to serve the function of the priest, which is prophetic. Now, who's called to do that? ALL of us.

See, everybody. It's not a special office or a special gift. Yes, some of you will be priests—no wait—the rest of you will just receive it? NO! You are ALL now—every one of us—called to be a part of the royal priesthood.

Now, if you read that and said, "Wait a minute, I'm called to be a royal priest"—first of all, you'd have to process that. Do I believe that? Most of us don't, by the way. It's like, "Yeah, well, whatever." Well, no—that's what it says.

The question ought to be WHAT? "How do I do that? What does that mean? I'm a priest—what does a priest DO? What am I supposed to do?" Exactly. And that's what we'll find out.

PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

- **From the following scriptures:** What has God's divine power granted to us—and what do we become through His promises?

2 Peter 1:1-4 ESV

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

—2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

So the priest—and we all are—is to receive the transfer of His divine nature into us, to receive all the great promises. So we'll both have the nature of Christ operating in us—the characteristics of Christ—and will experience circumstantially the power of His reconciling the world back to Himself. And we'll be partakers of that, He said.

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How? “By joining me in your role as the high priest.” So you’re not THE high priest—A priest. So you stay in that role of helping. First of all, am I being transformed and partaking? And then as I partake, my role toward others is to do WHAT? Invite them to partake. Because why? He says everybody’s supposed to be a priest, and everybody is supposed to partake.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you’re called to be a priest, the question isn’t whether you have the title—it’s “What does a priest do, and how do I do that?”

2. 2 Peter says you’ve been given everything pertaining to life and godliness and have become a partaker of the divine nature. If that’s true, what’s keeping you from living like it?

WHAT THE PRIEST DOES

So let’s look at there’s a couple of interesting things—two things specifically that the priest is called to do.

1 Chronicles 23:12-13 ESV

The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the LORD and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.

—1 Chronicles 23:13 ESV

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So, we minister actually—interesting enough—to God FIRST. And then He said your role is to draw people into sanctifying life in all things. So our role as a priest and prophet is for ME to be sanctified and become holy, godly—which is what Second Peter said. And then for you to facilitate with others, and you minister to others.

He said it involves two specific things:

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: BRINGING GOD’S WORD

1 Kings 8:6-11, 23-24 ESV

And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

—1 Kings 8:10-11 ESV

And said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.”

—1 Kings 8:23-24 ESV

So He said the Ark of the Covenant is to place us into the presence of God for us to be delivered the covenant: “I’m going to bless you to make you a blessing.” I’m bringing my word and truth and speaking. And he refers to that with David—that’s what he understood: the priests are bringing God’s word to speak to me to receive the super abundant life.

So a priest—that’s why it’s tied to the prophetic—the role is we’re bringing God’s word. Both the written word, but also RHEMA: How does it apply to you personally?

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TRUTH AND SANCTIFICATION

John 17:15-19 ESV

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

—John 17:17-19 ESV

Okay, the Ark of the Covenant brings sanctification. Jesus says, “I’m sending you into the world to bring truth.” What? “I say my word”—because that will lead you to sanctification and participating in all the abundant life that I have. And He said, “That’s what I’ve done for you. Now I want you to do that for others and connect them to me.” Because it’s not you speaking—it’s Him speaking through you to them. Truth. Leading people to truth. Which we’ll see how critical that is.

PRAYER: THE INCENSE OF THE SAINTS

Exodus 30:7-8 ESV

And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations.

—Exodus 30:7-8 ESV

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So incense was perpetual. And it's the indicator, the symbol of prayer. Revelation says that the incense are the prayers of the saints. So we are to be praying. The minister is to be praying to God.

Now, when you pray to God, what is the purpose of your prayer? God's will. Ask, seek, and knock. And so it's, "Well, Father, what do you have to say?" A minister is walking with God, receiving what God has to say, and then communicating that to somebody else. Not "I think you should" or even "the Bible says and you should"—it's receiving His word through prayer.

That's why He adds this element: "What are you saying?" My role is to, first of all, hear it and facilitate it, and then help others receive that as well.

Now remember, go back to who is called to be a royal priesthood. We ALL are. So see, it's not them looking to you: "Well, I'm gifted, and I can tell you what God says." I may be able to at the moment, but my role really is to do WHAT? Help you get to that same place. Because you're called to be that same place. We do that for each other.

And we'll see how critical this is even when we do it—because this is why it can drift into, well, they see you as a prophet and they actually just start coming to you: "What does God say? What does God say? What does God say?" Well, let's find out what God says TO YOU, and let me help you with that. Because our role is to help everybody.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A minister walks with God, receives what God has to say, and communicates that. If your role is to help others get to that same place, what must first be true of you?

2. If people start coming to you asking "What does God say?" what's the difference between telling them and helping them hear for themselves?

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THE FIVE OFFERINGS

Now, I'm going to do a little explanation here. We're not going to read all the verses—I would urge you to read Leviticus chapters 1-7. But let me walk through it.

There are five offerings that were made by the priest on behalf of the people, and the people had to join that. Which is why, when they had these feasts and celebrations and sacrifices, it wasn't just the priests doing it—it was the nation participating in it.

1. THE BURNT OFFERING

This is the aspect of Christ offering Himself as the final burnt offering at the altar and at the cross. It means that Christ surrendered, and we are to join Him with a heart of surrender. And what are you surrendering? Your WILL. You're going to neutral and saying, "I would like to follow you—join me in that sacrifice."

2. THE MEAL OFFERING

This was to celebrate the great life of God. He says, "I want you to join me in the best." It was the very best—offered for you to come and join Him in the very best. And don't accept anything less. His best is not mediocre.

3. THE PEACE OFFERING

The word for peace is SHALOM. So it was to be thankful. Don't go to resignation, but rather join God in the shalom favor. "I'm going to give you the very, very best, and you'll experience the best as you go through this peace offering."

4. THE SIN OFFERING

This is that it's been cleansed. Remember, God's view of us is what? There is now NO CONDEMNATION. So when you go through the sin offering, you say, "I've been released from the burden of the flesh, and I now can live free with Him." When you're in the kingdom, in the heavenlies with Him, by definition you're free. So go through the sin offering by just recognizing you're free. Don't wallow in guilt. Let's go. Follow Him.

5. THE TRESPASS OFFERING

This circles back to the burnt offering—you are completely surrendering ALL to God.

So the offerings basically are to put you in a position of WHAT? Receiving the life of God. And you say, "I believe it."

Now who performed those? The priest. So our role is first we have to do it for ourselves. Then what are we to offer? What are we to help other people do as a priest? Join those offerings. Which in essence is, "Don't you want to walk with God

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where—in the heavenlies? And let me help you get there.” So you’re performing those acts. Now, physically, we don’t have to do that anymore because Christ did it all. But we join Him in the essence of those.

THE SEVEN FEASTS

Then there were feasts—this is out of Leviticus 23—that have been fulfilled, and actually one yet to be fulfilled.

1. PASSOVER

This was to remember that “I’ve now freed you from your past, and it’s a step into the supernatural.” By the way, when we do Passover, what do we call it? Communion. The Lord’s Supper. And He said, “As often as you do this, do this in remembrance of me.” Do it often. Keep remembering that you’re stepping into the supernatural, and that you’re free now to walk with Him into the promised land. And help people understand that.

2. FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

This is cool. It says, “Live the life of righteousness, peace, and joy.” Where do we get that verse from? Romans 14:17: “The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” The Feast of Unleavened Bread is to enjoy that and make sure that you live in the kingdom of God.

3. FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS

You’re trusting God for all provision. When you enter into the Feast of Firstfruits, what do you do? You tithe a tenth back. What does that say? “I trust God, and my source of life is from God.” Do you recognize that? Do you honor that?

By the way, a priest—one of the most significant things you’ll be able to do is learn that tithing is kind of important. Why? It shows “I trust God,” and He tests you in that. And interesting enough, you can test Him right back! If we can learn that—because it’s so pervasive, everybody has income of some kind—even if you’re living in Africa and you get an extra cow, you’ve got to tithe the produce of that cow to honor God.

If you learn that now, what will people experience? God says, “I promise you, if you learn this, that I’ll”—what? “Overflow your provision.” Which, by the way, everybody would like. Interesting enough, people who don’t have it are not tithing. If you learn to tithe, you’re going to receive it.

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4. FEAST OF WEEKS (PENTECOST)

What happened at Pentecost? The Holy Spirit came upon them. Let the Holy Spirit rule your life. The Feast of Pentecost was to let the Spirit rule your life and give life from heaven.

5. FEAST OF TRUMPETS

This is not yet done. That's at the very end when Christ judges everything—it's not yet fulfilled until the very end. So that's yet to do. But we're supposed to prepare for that as a remnant.

6. DAY OF ATONEMENT

Remember, we read that Christ has finished that. So we are to receive that and live with that—that it is done. And my role is to join Him now at the right hand of the Father.

7. FEAST OF TABERNACLES (BOOTHES)

This is actually celebrating God's kingdom, which is heaven on earth.

So there are seven feasts, and our role is to basically participate in those feasts. Now, by the way, there were seven of them. How often did they do it? Every year. How come? Because that's actually what God told them to do. Keep remembering that. Keep remembering that. Keep remembering that.

So we as a priest are to basically help people do WHAT? Remember that. And it's not like one of them—like, "Pick one." No, no—you've got to do them ALL. So our role as a priest is to prophetically lead people to all of that, to make sure that we join Him by sacrifice, sacrificing our will, surrendering our will, and then joining Him in the benefits of all that—which is what He gives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The offerings and feasts were to be done repeatedly—to "keep remembering." What happens when believers stop remembering what Christ has done?

2. Our role as priests is to help people join ALL of these—not pick one. How does this change the way you think about your ministry to others?

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BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS

And He says, “Now, because of that, you’ll be able to bless me as I bless you.”
And He makes this cool statement:

- **From the following scriptures:** What does David say we must NOT forget—and what are the benefits?

Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

—Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

Interesting enough, He says, “As you join me”—remember, your priesthood is first to minister to God. Well, how do you minister to God? You bless His name. “I receive what is true”—as WHAT? Who you are. And He said the key to that is “forget not”—WHAT? All of His benefits.

Well, there’s BENEFITS to doing that. So if I were you, I’d benefit from this. And here’s what He’s done:

He said, “I’ve forgiven you completely”—did that at the cross. “I’m going to heal all your diseases.” Now, that’s a hard one for us. And we have a whole retreat and course on supernatural and authority, because people say, “Yeah, I don’t know about that.” Well, that’s what it says—which ultimately He does. And we’ve got to understand that.

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He says, "I'll redeem your life from the pit." And the word there is from your destructive patterns, the wounds of your soul. "I'll heal you of that." "I will then have you experience the covenant. I'm going to deliver the covenant. I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing, and to strengthen you so that you live the good life."

"And you'll soar like an eagle." And the picture there is great freedom, great joy, great power, great sight, great understanding, and there's no constraint. He said, "I would like you to live there."

And so your role as a believer? Well, let's receive that and then help other people receive that. Because you're the priest who is going to bless God's name through these sacrifices, through these feasts.

DAILY PRONOUNCING BLESSING

Psalm 145:1-7 ESV

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

—**Psalm 145:1-4 ESV**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

—**Psalm 145:5-7 ESV**

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And He says, how often do you do that? EVERY DAY. Every day. And He says that you pronounce blessing, right? So our role as priest and prophet is EVERY DAY you pronounce blessing.

And that means, first of all, if you're able to pronounce blessing, what must be true of you? You're being blessed! I have to receive it. You can't pronounce it if you're not receiving it. That's why He said you've got to minister with Him first. So you've got to be in the kingdom and sanctified in the kingdom. And then you're serving God on His assignment as He then tells you who to give that to.

And then He says, understand—His purpose is to bring everybody to become WHAT? The royal priesthood. To enjoy the life—the abundant life—and receiving the covenant. And which is the covenant: “I’m going to bless you so that you”—WHAT? Give it away.

So interesting enough, one of the evidences that you're facilitating that with others is that they're winding up doing WHAT? Giving it away. Automatically. And you don't have to force them to. It's God's work.

And then you speak what God says. The truth, the revelation, the rhema. “I’m going to use you to speak because I’ll be speaking to them. I need you to confirm it and help them realize that they can hear my voice as well.”

Now, by the way, if you're going to be able to speak what God says, what's important? For you to HEAR it. You've got to be able to hear it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you're able to pronounce blessing, what must first be true of you? And what happens to those around you if you're not receiving?

2. “I need you to confirm it and help them realize that they can hear my voice as well.” How does this shape your prophetic role with others?

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CLOSING CHARGE

So you see how cool this all is? Christ says, “I’ve given each of you the assignment of being a priest and a prophet.” It’s universal. It kind of lays out what it is. And based on that, our next question would be, “Okay, well, what does that mean to me personally? How do I do that?” Well, let’s go find out in Session 2.

So what I would urge you to do after this session—because we’ve thrown a lot at you—is to go back over this material and kind of walk through and get in your heart and understanding:

- What am I called to do?
- On what basis am I called to do it?
- What did Christ do for me?
- What is my role?

And the real question that’s there for you personally is: Do you understand this? Do you believe it? Do you have a heart to go find out about this so that you can live out the life of the calling of a prophet?

It’s very exciting, the possibility of it. And by the way, it’s critical for the body—the groups that we’re part of. We’re a critical piece of it, and they need to understand that they have a critical piece of it as well. That’s why this course is so significant: We are ALL called to be prophets.

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SESSION 1 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. What does Scripture reveal about the relationship between heaven and earth throughout God's plan—from creation to the new creation?

2. According to Hebrews, what makes Christ's sacrifice different from the Old Testament sacrificial system, and what does "once for all" mean?

3. What does Peter mean when he says believers are a "royal priesthood," and who does this apply to?

For Deeper Understanding

1. Why is it significant that there was no seat in the Holy of Holies—and that Christ sat down at the right hand of the Father?

2. How does understanding that you ARE seated with Christ (present tense) change your perspective on daily challenges and assignments?

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3. What is the connection between the prophetic calling and helping others “join what they already have the privilege of joining”?

For Personal Application

1. Do you understand that you’re called to be a priest and a prophet—and do you actually believe it? What would change if you did?

2. What would it look like for you to step into this calling this week, rather than waiting until you feel “ready”?

3. If the body of Christ needs you to fulfill this role, and you’re a critical piece—what happens to the people around you if you don’t step into it?



LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE



We are to help people understand the sacrifices, which is basically to surrender and join Him in the truth of that, and then to live out the feasts, which are to experience that.

As we continue now in Session 2, we've learned last time that we're all called to be prophets and priests. We looked at the role of what Christ has done. We're to join Him in that place of being seated at the right hand in His kingdom—which means we're in heaven and on earth together.

We are to help people understand the sacrifices, which is basically to surrender and join Him in the truth of that, and then to live out the feasts, which are to experience that. So it's kind of a fun thing that we get to do as a priest.

So the question is: What's our purpose? What's our role? And how do we do that? So we're going to get into that.

COMMISSIONED AS PRIESTS: BEARING WITNESS

- **From the following scripture:** When Paul says we're to demonstrate God's wisdom, who is our audience—just people, or something more?

Ephesians 3:7-12 ESV

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

—Ephesians 3:8-12 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

So He says that we are to bear witness—the church. So that's all of us who are called to be priests and prophets. We are to bear witness to WHO? To the principalities and powers. To the spiritual realm.

Interesting enough, He doesn't even say "just bear witness to other people." Now, because we're doing that well, we will impact other people. He said, actually, your purpose is to bear witness to principalities and powers.

Now, where are they operating? In the spiritual realm AND on earth. So that's why He looks at it as a unit. He doesn't separate that out. The real game is both places together. It's not just the natural. So don't operate there alone, because they're not operating there alone either.

You're to demonstrate to them that this is all true. So if we're to demonstrate to them, what must be happening? God's supernatural work! Because we're drawing the power from the heavenlies into the earthly things, and God is doing supernatural things that we're bearing witness to them.

Here's the thing: if it's just in the natural, they're actually demonstrating to us that they have superiority over us. But if we're operating in both places, we're demonstrating to them the supernatural. He said that's actually your purpose.

And He said the key is that you have access to the heavenlies—the throne room—because why? You're sitting at the right hand of the Father. And He said, do that with boldness and confidence. You have bold access. Don't waste that opportunity to let Him have His life lived through you, because you're sitting with Him receiving that, and then you're demonstrating that to the principalities and powers.

So by definition, if we're operating in this role, what will be happening to us? Supernatural. It'll be natural. It'll be normal. It'll be consistent—not once in a while. And then He said, draw other people to that place so they will start to experience it as well. And interesting enough, the angels and the demonic will be receiving that—that it's true—because you're demonstrating it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If your audience includes principalities and powers in the spiritual realm, what must be happening through you for your witness to have any effect?

2. If you're only operating in the natural realm, who has superiority? And what changes when you operate in both realms?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER PRINCIPALITIES

- **From the following scripture** When Paul describes what Christ accomplished on the cross regarding principalities and powers, pay attention to the verb tenses. Past or future?

Colossians 2:11-15 ESV

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

—Colossians 2:13-15 ESV

So He says, now you have died to self, and you're now being made alive with Him—living with Him at the right hand of the Father. So you're living in both places. He said, "Bear witness and speak what I've done."

He did FOUR things:

1. He forgave all your sins—once and for all. So you're free to now receive it.
2. He took away the requirement and nailed it to the cross. What's the requirement? Perfection—which you can't get there. He said, "I just took care of it. I replaced it with the work that I did. Now all you've got to do is receive that. Don't worry about perfection."
3. He disarmed the rulers and authorities. They don't have any power when you're walking with Him in both places.
4. He gained victory over them—past tense. It's done.

So do we have to fight the battle again with the demonic? No! How come? He finished it. He did it already. It's done. You just have to live from that power.

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

Now, if you're only walking in the world and you're not walking with Him, who has power over you? Satan. So are they truly disarmed where they don't have any power? No—He's disarmed them, and therefore they can't have any power WHEN YOU'RE WALKING WITH HIM.

And so you are to proclaim what He did. All of this is PAST TENSE. It doesn't say "maybe," "perhaps," or "could be." He's already done it all. And when you join Him in that and you live that life out, you are to proclaim what He's already done and have it be operational in your life and in the life of other people.

So when people say, "Well, Satan's doing this, Satan's doing that"—your response is WHAT? Wait a minute. He's already disarmed him. It's just that you're not living in the kingdom. So let's go there, and you can experience it. Why? It's already happened. Past tense.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Christ disarmed, triumphed over, and put to open shame the rulers and authorities—all PAST TENSE. Why are you still fighting a battle He already won?

2. If the enemy only has power over you when you're NOT walking in the kingdom, what does that tell you about where you need to be living?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

OVERCOMING: JESUS AT THE DOOR

This next passage is primarily used by pastors as a verse of evangelism. But this is actually talking TO THE CHURCH. Revelation 3 is talking to the church.

- **From the following scriptures:** Jesus says He's standing at the door and knocking. But who is He talking to—unbelievers or believers?

Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

—Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

So He says where we're headed is, "I'm granting you the opportunity to sit down with me." Remember, we read that in Ephesians—you get to sit down with Him at the right hand of the Father. He said, that's where we're headed.

Now the key is WHAT? Hear my voice. Well, if you hear His voice, you must be a believer receiving the ability to hear His voice—which, by the way, is why? Because you have the Holy Spirit.

He said, "If I'm sitting there saying, 'Would you allow me to come in and let's dine together?'—all you've got to do is WHAT? Come. Open the door. Come on in." He said when you do that—which is your privilege—we will together become WHAT? Overcomers.

Why? Because He already did it. What are you trying to overcome? The world. Because the world is throwing trouble at you. Do you have problems? Yep. Do you have issues that are beyond you? Yep. Are there difficulties? Yep.

So it's not that you don't have them, but if you allow Him—as a priest—for Him to live this out through you, you'll overcome. Why? He's already done it. Is there anything too difficult for God? No! Everything's been overcome already. "I'll overcome your circumstances. I'll overcome it. And you join me in that." How? By joining Him in the heavenlies. And all you have to do is let Him have fellowship with you.

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PURPOSE AND ROLE

Psalm 54:4-7 ESV

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life... For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

—Psalm 54:4, 7 ESV

He says, "I'll deliver you." From WHAT? From EVERY trouble. Every one of them. Implying you're going to have them. So He'll deliver you from them.

And He said you join Him through your freewill offering—which we talked about last time. "I willingly follow you." Well, it's kind of important to join Him in following Him. Because why? He'll deliver you from EVERY one of your troubles—which you're going to have.

And you, as a priest, are going to first of all realize that, and then you're going to offer that to other people. When somebody comes along and says, "I've got trouble," you're going to say, "Yeah, I know. Do you think you shouldn't have trouble?" Most people say, "I shouldn't." Well, let me help you understand: you're GOING to have trouble. Don't get discouraged. God will do WHAT? Deliver you from WHAT? ALL of them. All of them.

Now think as a priest. Your role is really simple. First of all, don't get discouraged, and don't think you shouldn't have troubles. You're going to have them. How often? All the time. And your life is going to be filled with that because you live in this world of trouble. But don't be discouraged—God will deliver you from all those troubles.

And my role for you—who's coming to me saying, "I've got trouble, and I'm really upset about this, I'm really discouraged about this, I'm sick of this"—okay, let me help you walk with God in the heavenlies. You're going to have to get to the heavenlies, and you'll start to overcome this trouble. Because why? God will deliver it. And you've got to be with Him to have Him deliver it. I'm going to help you do that. That's my role as a priest and a prophet—doing what? Let's find out what God has to say. Why? Because that's your role—to help them understand it.

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus doesn't promise to remove you from trouble—He promises you'll overcome WHILE IN IT. What's the difference?

2. God delivers from EVERY trouble—not some, not most, but ALL. If that's true, why do believers stay stuck in their troubles?

A SWEET AROMA: LIVING IT OUT

- **From the following scripture:** Paul says we are the "aroma of Christ." But what makes us actually smell sweet—and what happens when people encounter that aroma?

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

—2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

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So He says Christ wants you to do WHAT? Triumph over the difficulties of life. "I don't want that to triumph over you"—which, by the way, the enemy is trying to do with the demonic. And that's why he wants to get you only in the world. "Don't even think that you're in the heavenlies." Because if you're only in the world, he's got power over you and can triumph over you.

But God says, "Actually, you have the power to triumph over that." And He said, "You become a sweet aroma."

Now interesting enough, He said there will be a reaction to that. Some will say, "Wow, that's cool! I'd like to learn that. That smells good to me." Interesting enough, He said others are going to WHAT? Reject it. They're going to find it distasteful: "I don't want to pursue this at all."

So He's implying WHAT? Your role as a priest is just to offer it. And interesting enough, He actually says it's YOU—you ARE a sweet-smelling aroma.

Now if that's true, what must be true of you? You must be smelling sweet! You've got to be living in that place. And it truly IS sweet. And you know it. You experience it. Well, this IS sweet. Why? Because life's sweet. Absent of trouble? No—OVERCOMING trouble. And I can walk in that sweetness.

And He said, by the way, it's not you persuading somebody and trying to get them to believe something that they don't have a heart to believe. That's not your role. So you're not peddling anything. It's really just LIVING IT OUT.

You're just living it out and paying attention to other people who are interested. And then when they're interested, just sharing it with them. Because why would people be interested? They're recognizing something's different.

As we think about the ministry of Abide Ministries—how have all of our retreats come about? People experienced it. Something happened to them. "I see that. Could we learn this?" It's a sweet-smelling aroma, and they're noticing it. Other people are like, "Yeah, you guys are Christians and this and that—I don't want anything to do with it." Okay.

This is counter to what we've been taught in church—kind of convince people and talk about it and push it on people to "save them." But God just says, "Actually, if you just live it, people will be attracted to it"—which they are.

Ken Blanchard Story: I met Ken Blanchard, who wrote 'The One Minute Manager.' He just became a new believer at an older age. We were speaking at the same place—I spoke on abiding, and he was speaking on management. In the green room, he comes back and says, 'Would you mentor me?' I said, 'You mean—YOU want to be mentored by ME? You're the big shot! I'm nothing.' He says, 'No, I don't know anything about this stuff. I'd like to learn. If you said that if you follow God you're going to be overcoming and have a grand life, I want that. Could you help me do that?' So we started getting in the Word, learning abiding.

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About five months later, I get a phone call from Ken. He said, 'I've got a bunch of these big-shot executives, and they asked me what happened to me. I said I learned how to walk with God—I've learned to abide, I've learned to hear His voice, I'm starting to process, and God's making decisions. And I'm walking in that and it's fantastic.' They said, 'Can we learn that?' You see what happened? He became a sweet-smelling aroma. Why? Living it out. He didn't have to do nothing. He didn't have to persuade anything. People just said, 'Can I learn that?' That's how it's supposed to multiply.

That's being the light. The light is attractive. And He said, "Don't worry about people that don't care. You've got plenty that will." So our role is to be the sweet-smelling aroma, then help others become the sweet-smelling aroma, and they become a priest. And what's happening is that the incense—the life of God—is attractive to people.

Something interesting about that: I think most of us believe if we live a life of God, we're not going to have those issues. We're going to live in complete peace, and that's what's going to be attractive. But really, what's attractive—because most people don't believe that anyway—is being able to see how God led us step by step THROUGH the problem. And all of a sudden you see that you can live peacefully through a very difficult issue. And they're like, "I can do that too! I have issues."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You ARE a sweet-smelling aroma—if you're living in the heavenlies and experiencing the sweetness of God's life. What must first be true of you before you can attract others?

2. People aren't attracted to a trouble-free life (they don't believe that exists anyway). What IS attractive to them?

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SIGNS AND WONDERS: GOD BEARS WITNESS

- **From the following scriptures:** As you reflect the Word, how does God bear witness to what you're saying?

Hebrews 2:1-4 ESV

How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

—Hebrews 2:3-4 ESV

So as you're reflecting the Word, He said, "My role will be to bear witness." With WHAT? Signs and wonders. And the Greek there is: with miracles, miracles, miracles, and more miracles. It's amazing.

So He'll do supernatural stuff. Even think of how God overcame issues for you—there were amazing things that happened. It wasn't that you got a little bit more wise. God did things to verify it.

Think of Jesus, who came and spoke the Word of God. What if He would have never done any miracles at all and just spoke the Word of God? What kind of response would He have gotten? "He's just another guy." Yeah, yeah. But He said—and this is in John 14—"I know you're having a struggle understanding what I'm saying. Why don't you just believe the miracles all by themselves and say, 'Huh, something's up here.'"

So our life is to be demonstrated with bearing witness to what we're receiving. He's bearing witness with signs and wonders. So we are supposed to be a CONDUIT of the signs and wonders—both for us to experience it and then to offer that to other people. As you say, "Walk with Him," what will God do? Signs and wonders.

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And by the way, what does that do for you when you start to experience that? It's thrilling! It's exciting! It thrills your heart. And you say, "Well, I'd like to learn more of that." It builds your confidence. It builds your faith that the next one is going to be more. And it's God's work—it's not just theology. And we get to experience it.

And He said, "Don't neglect so great a salvation." Well, the American church kind of neglected this because they've associated signs and wonders with hokey stuff. "Oh no, that doesn't happen. All those crazy people do that. And I know half of that isn't even right. So heck with it."

And what we're supposed to do is wait a minute—it's supposed to be NORMAL. And if you walk with God, it will become normal. And you can bear witness because you can say, "This happened to me"—and they can't refute that. "Well, I'd like to learn that too."

MAKE KNOWN HIS WONDROUS WORKS

1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 15 ESV

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered.

—1 Chronicles 16:8-12 ESV

Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 ESV

He said, so remember the covenant. It lasts. It still lasts. And the covenant: "I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing." So He said, "Proclaim that."

Now, by the way, if you're going to proclaim that—"God says I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing"—what must be true of you? You've got to be BEING

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blessed. Experiencing the abundant life. And then I can speak it and bear witness: "Don't believe nothing I say. Just listen to what happened—and you can have that too."

And then He says WHAT? "Make known my"—WHAT? My fantastic, miraculous stuff. Make it known.

Now think about how ineffective it is if I stand before people and say, "God does miracles." Okay. Their first question to me is WHAT? "Well, what happened? How did that happen for you?" "Oh, it didn't happen for me." Do you see how hollow that is? "Well then, why tell me that?" Which, by the way, is what they think. They don't say that, but they just hear a bunch of "you shoulds."

Yeah, well, we SHOULD be talking about making known the miracles of God. Which, by the way, if you're walking with God, are going to be there. It's easy to make it known because it's there—it happens. As a priest, that's your role: Make it known. Make it known.

And to the people that don't know that: "Well, let me share with you what happened with me. Here's how it worked. I can teach you that." And their first reaction is, "I doubt it." Why? Because it's never happened to them.

Rich's Experience: I've had people come to me—they still do—and when they come, they're usually coming with pretty deep issues. Really tough situations. And generally they're very discouraged. Somebody has said to them, 'I know you don't believe this, but you ought to go talk to Rich.' They describe it to me. I say, 'Yeah, I understand. Would you like to have it resolved?' 'What do you mean?' 'God will resolve this.' 'Are you sure?' 'Yeah, I guarantee you God will resolve it.' 'You can't do that.' 'Yes I can. I don't know how and I don't know when, and I don't know how long it's going to take, but God will resolve it because He'll give you the covenant. Now you're going to have to learn to walk with Him, because He can only give it to you in the heavenlies. So let me help you with that. Would you like to come?' You know what a lot of them say? 'I don't think so.' How come? 'I doubt it. I've never seen it happen. I don't want to waste my time.' My reaction is, 'Well, how's that working out for you? Why don't you at least try it for 30 days?'

Now this is cool—and you have to really believe this and understand it. If they start walking with God—and remember, they know nothing—what has to happen in the first 30 days? God has to do supernatural stuff to get them excited a little bit. "You know what? I'll keep going." I have to trust that. If I'm going to guarantee it, I have to trust it. It has nothing to do with me, and it's not what I say to them—it's what GOD does. Make known His wondrous works to you, and then help them experience it.

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Daniel 4:1-3 ESV

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

—Daniel 4:1-3 ESV

Now, who's speaking this? Nebuchadnezzar! He's not a believer, per se, but he became a believer. He's declaring WHAT? The signs and wonders that God has done. "Hey everybody, I can tell you that's true." He declared it.

So it's not about "Are you religious? Are you going to church?" It's just "Are you experiencing the life of God?" And even non-believers around you will start to say, "You know what? I've observed that, and I declare it. So I'd like to learn that too." He's declaring how fantastic it is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you say "God does miracles" but you have no personal experience to share, what does that communicate to the person you're talking to?

2. Even Nebuchadnezzar—a pagan king—couldn't help but declare God's signs and wonders when he experienced them. What happens when we DON'T have experiences to declare?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM: BIND AND LOOSE

Now He tells us something. He says, "I want to help you understand your role in the supernatural."

- **From the following scriptures:** Jesus says He's giving Peter "the keys of the kingdom." What do those keys allow you to do?

Matthew 16:16-19 ESV

Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

—Matthew 16:16-19 ESV

So stop right there. He says, "God has revealed this to you, and you received it. Hallelujah! Peter, way to go! Upon this understanding—that you can hear God's voice and live out with the authority of God—I'm going to give you the keys." To WHAT? The kingdom of heaven. The kingdom FROM heaven. Why? Because it's a unit. Here you are on earth—"I'm giving you the keys to the unit."

You'll be able to do WHAT? What does it say? Bind and loose.

Now He's not saying "maneuver better." He's saying, "I'm going to give you power that can BIND OFF any activity of the enemy and tie it up." Really? When you bind something up, you wrap it up and they can't function. "I'm going to give you the power that they can't function in this particular situation."

"And we're going to LOOSE all the supernatural work of heaven. And it's going to come through you. You have that power."

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Now think: if you're able to get that power from heaven, probably where do you have to be? In the kingdom. In heaven. You've got to be in the kingdom of God, because He said "the keys to the KINGDOM"—not the keys to a better life on earth. You'll have that power, and you will exercise it by declaring it and bringing it about.

Matthew 18:18-20 ESV

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

—Matthew 18:18-20 ESV

So He says an interesting thing here. He said the same thing that He just said to Peter. It comes through UNITY—of you coming to an agreement of WHAT? The authority He's giving you.

So you and your spouse, you and your friend, you and your inner circle—you as a priest, you as a prophet—are to start moving in this direction, starting to do that TOGETHER. So it's not you isolated. It's you doing it together and receiving this authority.

And you start thinking differently. "I've got a problem." Our typical thought is, "What am I going to do to try to maneuver that problem?" And God says, "Well, actually, why don't we BRING THE AUTHORITY to the problem? Because it's supernatural stuff. It's spiritual stuff. Why? Because I can create things. I can speak things and create things that don't exist. So don't get limited by what you think and how you can naturally maneuver it. Why don't you bring authority to it?"

"And I'm going to give you that as a priest. And then other people are going to join you in that and see that you have power over this problem."

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PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you have a problem, is your first instinct to "maneuver" it naturally, or to bring the authority of the kingdom to it?

2. Jesus says this authority operates through unity—two or three agreeing. Who are you exercising this authority WITH?

SIGNS AND WONDERS: THROUGH HUMAN HANDS

Let's look at some examples of how this worked in the early church.

Acts 2:40-43 ESV

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

—Acts 2:41-43 ESV

So Pentecost—Peter stands up, everybody starts to understand the truth of God, and he explains it. It was the power of the Holy Spirit. And 3,000 people came to know Christ.

And by the way, who are those 3,000 people? Jews. Were they typically wanting to be persuaded that they should receive Christ as their Lord and Savior? No! The power came upon them and they said, "Okay, I receive this."

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What did they do next? They started gathering in small groups because it's like, "Okay, what the heck is this all about? What is this life like?" And they started to break bread. The disciples started to explain all the things they experienced with Christ—the truth of that. They prayed together and they experienced signs and wonders. And they were in AWE of signs and wonders because it became true.

See, it wasn't theological theology. It was, "Hey, I've got a problem. I've got this, I've got that." "Okay, well, let's see what God has to say about it. We're going to teach you what it means to walk with God. God's going to do signs and wonders." And every day they're doing signs and wonders.

It said daily people came to that. Why did they come? They heard about it. "Well, is that really true? I'd like that too." It wasn't because you said "Christ is the Messiah." It's because of the SIGNS AND WONDERS. Now they learned that Christ was the Messiah, but it was the signs and wonders. That's what He said: "You're to demonstrate that." And they were serving as priests.

Acts 5:12 ESV

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

—Acts 5:12 ESV

So signs and wonders were done—by WHAT? "Among the people"—by WHAT? "By the HANDS of the apostles."

So the agency of the—so it wasn't like, "Yeah, God, take care of all that and let's watch." No! YOU pray over that person. YOU speak to that situation. YOU lay hands on somebody. YOU say—God says—it's coming through you. That's your role. Hey disciples, you're priests. Hey disciples, you're prophets. Teach other people to do the same thing. The signs and wonders came THROUGH them—not absent of them.

So our view—when we think about how we typically pray: "God, would You... and let us know when You do." And "probably not." As opposed to, "Wait a minute, God says for YOU to do it."

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SARS Healing Story: We had a retreat during SARS—highly contagious, sweating, awful. People were scared. Should we even come? It'll be fine. So Friday night, we're having dinner. The lady at the end sitting next to Linda has SARS. You can tell—she's sweating, she's got it bad. Everybody is already like, 'I knew it!' Getting tense. So I say, 'Father, what do You want me to do about that?' He said, 'Get up and lay hands on her. I'll heal her.' 'You want me to stand up right now and go over and lay hands? You're going to heal her?' 'Yeah.'

See, it wasn't, 'Hey everybody, I'm going to pray that God heals her.' He said, 'You go over there and lay hands on her, and I'll heal her through you.' So I get up and say, 'I know everybody is upset. This lady has this contagious disease, and you all don't want to be here. So God said He's going to heal her. Let's all stand up and lay hands on her.' They stand up, but they ain't coming close! So Linda and I lay hands on her. 'God, You said—we know she's got SARS. We're praying and believing that because You said You're going to heal her.' Then I said, 'Look, you get up, go to bed, go to sleep. Tomorrow you'll be fine.' The rest of the night, they're all like, 'What did we come to?'

So we had breakfast in the morning. She walks out of the room and she's GLOWING. Literally glowing. Completely healed. Everybody's eyes were wide open—'Oh my gosh, you laid hands on her, prayed, and she's healed and fine!' And she was. And nobody got sick. God says, 'You are the AGENT of this. So when I say something, you get up and do it—not just pray that I do it. I'm doing it through you.' And demonstrating signs and wonders—which, by the way, they all got pretty excited about the retreat after that.

Acts 6:8 ESV

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

—Acts 6:8 ESV

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PURPOSE AND ROLE

So who? Stephen. Full of the power of God, did the signs and wonders. So keep thinking: Priest. Active participant. An agent of.

Acts 14:2-3 ESV

But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

—Acts 14:2-3 ESV

So they were unbelieving—like, "I doubt this." And God said, "Well, just stay there. Through your hands, through your activity, you'll experience signs and wonders."

So when we think of prophetic and we think of priest, don't just be thinking, "I'm only speaking something"—which you're going to do. "I'm bringing God's LIFE to the situation. I'm bringing signs and wonders to it, and you're going to be ACTIVE in it."

Now, in order to do that, again, it's got to be true for YOU. It's got to happen in your life. And then you have to have complete belief that this is possible and that you can be used in that. Because, by the way, it has nothing to do with your skill. It has nothing to do with your education. It has nothing to do with anything that you're involved with. It's just: Do you have a HEART to do it? And everybody can do it. And it's kind of cool.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Signs and wonders were done "by the hands" of the apostles—they were the active agents, not passive observers. Are you waiting for God to act, or are you willing to be the instrument He acts through?

2. It has nothing to do with skill, education, or background—just "Do you have a heart to do it?" Do you?

YOU ARE THE COVENANT

Now, because of that, He said, "I want you to understand what I'm really saying to you." This is an amazing statement:

Isaiah 42:5-9 ESV

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

—Isaiah 42:5-7 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

So He says, "You understand the covenant." And we'll talk about that in a second. You are WHAT? What does He say in that verse? "You ARE the covenant." You ARE the covenant.

"I'm giving you to others to bring the covenant"—which is "blessed to be a blessing." So by definition, if I'm the covenant, what must be true of me? I'm blessed! I've got to be BEING blessed, and I'm giving it away.

So He said, put all that together. The covenant is: "I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing. I'm going to give promises to you, and it's delightful. You need to walk with me. Speak my word. Receive wisdom, give wisdom. Expect the supernatural—because that's part of the covenant."

And that's an element that everybody needs to understand. Because we have a tendency to think, "I just tell them about it." Yeah, but they EXPERIENCE it as supernatural. And then you're going to bring rejoicing to that power that they experience. Because when they do, what are they going to do? "Hallelujah! I'd like to do this more!" No kidding—keep doing it more. Let me help you keep doing it more.

The more they do it—well, then what happens to them? They start giving it away. Why? Just like what happened with Ken Blanchard. Something happened to him. They noticed it. "Is that possible for me?" Yeah, that's how it works.

Question from the group: *"So this is the same language that Jesus used in the synagogue? Describing Himself?"*

Yes! He's the new covenant. And now we are that new covenant with Him. Exactly. Because why? Now think about why.

"Because He lives within us." He's in me. I'm the physical representative of the invisible God, and He's living His life through me.

So that's why, when we think about His will—by the way, we have a tendency to think, "What do I do? What do I do? What do I do?" He says, "This isn't about you. It's about ME—what I'm going to do through you. I've got to get you to the right place at the right time with the right people. Yeah, you have instructions you have to follow. But I've got to get you to the place where I'm going to demonstrate my will."

"You are the covenant." Why? Because that's HIM. And you're living His life. That's why Paul says, by the way, "It's no longer I that live, but"—WHAT? "Christ that lives in me." Does that mean Paul is nothing? No, no. Was Paul still that aggressive guy? Yeah. But Christ is living His life through him. And that's what He wants us to do.

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PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus quoted this passage about Himself in the synagogue. What does it mean that YOU now carry that same role—"given as a covenant for the people"?

2. If you ARE the covenant, what must first be true of your life before you can deliver the covenant to someone else?

CALLED TO PROPHECY

Okay, then He calls us—as a priest, then we're called to be prophets.

- **From the following scriptures** What's the difference between "forth-telling" and "foretelling"—and what are the three purposes of prophecy?

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 ESV

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy.

—1 Corinthians 14:1-5 ESV

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PURPOSE AND ROLE

So He says, "I'm calling you to prophesy." And think of prophecy as two elements:

FORTH-TELLING: Truth-telling. You've got situations that you're involved in with somebody, and you ask, "What's the truth? What do You want me to understand about that?" And God will speak to that—"Let me speak to that. Lead you to truth."

FORETELLING: "I'm going to give you a heads up—something's going to happen. Pay attention. It's coming down the road. Be ready for what I'm about to tell you." An admonition to be ready for something that you need to prepare for.

And He said the QUALITIES of that—as you speak to people—are:

1. EDIFICATION: Building them up. Strengthening them by receiving the life of God. You're going to lead them into edification.

2. EXHORTATION: Here is a warning. Here is an instruction. Here is something for you to pay attention to and start walking down that path. It can be "you're walking down the wrong path and need to come back," or "as you're walking down this path, pay attention to something—I want to warn you that this may be coming." Let me encourage you to walk that.

3. COMFORT: As they receive that, they actually get excited. Remember, you're speaking to people who don't know much about this. New hope! If you can say, "You know what? God's going to resolve that." "Are you sure?" "Yeah." "How do you know?" "Well, God says so, and He's confirming that. And I'm telling you, it's going to happen." You can get excited about that—let's go get excited!

So in the prophetic, it can be "You're going the wrong way." But it's NOT judgment. It's bringing God's life to encourage them. Even when Jeremiah was doing that with Israel—the purpose of it was always WHAT? When he said, "You guys are going the wrong way and you're going to be captured by Nebuchadnezzar if you don't"—WHAT? Repent. "If you repent, it'll be fine. God's going to get you back to the great life."

Now, by the way, their reaction was WHAT? "Nah, I don't believe it." Okay, Jeremiah got kind of discouraged. God said, "What are you worried about? I didn't tell you to care about the outcome. You just be my messenger." And His purpose wasn't to harm them—it was actually to bring them back.

So there's always the message of "let's go back to the life of God." If you're prophetic, you're not doing it out of judgment. You're not doing it out of "I'm going to hammer you." Rather, you're going to encourage them to be walking with Him.

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

SPEAK WHAT I TELL YOU, GO WHERE I SEND YOU

Jeremiah 1:4-10 ESV

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 1:5-8 ESV

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

—Jeremiah 1:9-10 ESV

So He says, "I'm calling you to the prophetic." And basically, what are you supposed to do? SPEAK what I tell you and GO where I tell you to go.

So when you think of prophetic, keep those two things in mind: Speak what He tells you—and ONLY what He tells you—and go where He tells you to go.

So when you're thinking of your activity in the prophetic, what's kind of important? That you're hearing what He says, and you're confident that you can speak it back. And then go where He tells you.

And it has POWER. It'll have great power if you exercise that. And see, you're a conduit of God. You're not standing and thinking what you should do, "and I've decided what to do." Rather, it's just, "Am I hearing what God is saying? Let me speak it out as He says, and to the people He tells me to."

So is He going to tell you to start walking around the church and tell everybody what they should do? No. There'll be situations He wants to call you into, but a lot of times He's saying, "I'm not asking you to do that. Don't worry about it. You just go where I tell you."

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

It's actually exactly what Jesus modeled for us on earth. He said, "I only say what the Father tells me to say. I only do what He says for me to do." Exactly. So just stay there.

Acts 15:32, 35 ESV

And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words... But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

—Acts 15:32, 35 ESV

So He says, "I want you to serve as a prophet, exhorting others and strengthening others, and you stay where I'm asking you to stay. So let me speak to you. You speak to them. And then encourage them to become priests and prophets themselves."

And so it's a conduit. It's a flow-through process. And He said, "I am calling you to do that, and you should ENJOY doing that—because you're hearing from me, and you get to involve yourself with other people and get to see them experience the supernatural, which will encourage you."

See how it works? Life in the body is supposed to be EXCITING—not "woe is me, how awful is this." It's supposed to go the opposite direction. And it starts with us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jeremiah's job was to speak what God said and go where God sent him—not to control the outcome. How does this free you from worry about how people respond?

2. You should ENJOY being prophetic—seeing others experience the supernatural. Is that your experience, or does it feel like a burden?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING ALREADY GIVEN

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Paul, have you received SOME spiritual blessings, or ALL of them? And where are they located?

Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

—Ephesians 1:3-6 ESV

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

—Ephesians 1:7-10 ESV

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

—Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV

So He says, "I blessed you already with EVERY spiritual blessing"—in the WHAT? In heaven. Why? Because you're in both places. "I have already given you the fullness of the blessing that's there. It's already there. And because I'm in you, you have it all. I have done it in the heavenlies." And you've got to be in both places.

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

He says, "Now I want to assure you—you have it." Because He says, "I've sealed you"—with WHAT? The Holy Spirit. So you're sealed with the Holy Spirit. You have Him within you.

So understand: "I would bless you, and you have me." He said, "Now I want you to help yourself and others understand that you have a life of FREEDOM. And your purpose is to receive and understand my will, and I'll deliver it to you—and know it. And then once you know it, carry it out."

So He kind of puts the whole thing in Ephesians 1: You already have it. You're sealed. You're supposed to live a life of freedom. Understand His will and then carry out His will. And you help other people get to that same place.

So think about it. If you could say to somebody right now, "I guarantee you that if you learn something, you will know God's will. You'll be able to carry out God's will, and it'll be supernatural." If anybody looked at you and said, "Is that really possible?" And you said, "I guarantee you it's possible"—what should be their response? "How do you know that? Show me. I'd like to learn that."

And all you do is say, "Well, let's go try it out." See, that's the role of the priest and the prophet: Invite people to that. Invite people to that.

Now, by the way, if you're going to invite people to that, what must be true of YOU? You're living it. You're understanding God's will. You're living it out. And you're experiencing the supernatural. And you have to DEMONSTRATE it. It can't be hollow. It has to be demonstrated.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Every spiritual blessing has ALREADY been given to you in the heavenlies. What's keeping you from accessing and experiencing them?

2. If someone asked you to prove that it's possible to know and carry out God's will supernaturally, could you demonstrate it from your own life?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DELIGHT IN GOD'S WILL

And He said the key to the whole thing is this:

Psalm 40:6-9 ESV

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'

—Psalm 40:6-8 ESV

So David says, "I really understood something. Of everything that I'd like to be known for, it would be"—WHAT? "That I DELIGHT to do Your will."

Now think about that. If he DELIGHTS to do God's will, what does that say about God's will? It's DELIGHTFUL. It's the best, and none better. It's going to be spectacular.

Because otherwise, if it's awful, if it's not good, there's no way you would delight in that. You could say, "I guess I can do God's will. I guess I can do it. I'm not delighted to do it." And that's, by the way, what most people think: "If I learn God's will, okay, it's going to be not that good, but I guess I could do that. I'm supposed to do that?"

Well, David said, "No, I've learned that it's DELIGHTFUL." Because why? His will IS delightful. Spectacular.

He said, "That's where you're trying to drive everybody to: Could I help you delight in God's will?" Why? Well, God's will is fantastic. And they have to be proven that—which God says, "I don't mind. I'll prove it. But they have to walk with me to do it. I can't do it any other way. And you've got to help them do it."

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DENY SELF, TAKE UP THE CROSS, FOLLOW

And then He says, by the way, this is what's required:

Matthew 16:24-27 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?'

—Matthew 16:24-26 ESV

So if anybody wants to come and experience His will—which is spectacular—well, you first have to do WHAT? Surrender. Deny self. Surrender your will to His. You've got to go through Gethsemane—He did. You're going to have to do it.

"Take up the cross." And the English says "take up YOUR cross," but actually it says "take up THE cross." And remember what He's already done: Forgave you. Took away the requirement. Disarmed principalities and powers. Gained victory over it. And gave you the opportunity to experience the resurrection of the supernatural.

So stand there. Then do WHAT? Deny yourself. Take up the cross. And then do WHAT? Follow Him. "Follow me."

So think about it. It should be EASY to deny self. Why? Because His will is best and better. Why not? "I do understand what You've done." Okay, that took a minute. Really, that's all it takes—if you have a heart to go and learn it.

The next 23 hours of the day, what are you supposed to be doing? Following Him. Which is now, "Let's walk step by step. I'll show you what it looks like—how to bring authority, how to overcome, how to do all these things." And He can't do it any other way.

"Don't ask me to follow you if you exit the kingdom. You've walked away from me." And the way to ENTER the kingdom? You've got to do WHAT? Deny self. Stand on the cross. And let's go. Why? Well, because then you'll learn to delight in His will. Why? Because His will will be delivered, and it'll be delightful.

Do you see how that works? It's really amazing.

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

GOD IS LOOKING FOR FAITHFUL PRIESTS

And so God, as we finish this, says, "I'm telling you what I'm looking for."

1 Samuel 2:35 ESV

And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

—1 Samuel 2:35 ESV

So God says, "I'm looking for a faithful priest." And read that first sentence again so we understand one thing: "I will raise up for MYSELF."

He's raising up for WHO? Himself. "I'm raising up for ME." This is for Him! For you to live this life.

A faithful priest does what we just talked about—who does and helps other people learn what's on His heart and what's on His mind. To be able to deliver to you the great will.

So the invitation—going back to what we learned in Session 1—"I'm calling everybody to the royal priesthood. I'm looking for faithful priests who can live it out. And that's why I'm calling you to be a prophet—EVERYBODY. And you've got to learn this and receive it and walk with it."

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

CLOSING CHARGE

So Heavenly Father, we do thank You for the truth of that. We do understand that You're calling us to be prophets and serve in the role of priest—which then introduces people to the supernatural.

As you finish this session, we would urge you now to go back and be thinking about steps that God is asking you to take:

- Learn what it means to walk with Him
- Learn what it means that all the spiritual blessings have been given to you
- Seek His will, and learn to seek His will
- As you have a heart to follow His will, you'll receive it, you'll be delighted in it, and then you'll be able to give it away—because you will BE the covenant

So spend some time this week. What I would suggest is: Write down all the things that you need God's will to be answered for, and start to process that with your spouse, with your friend, and with your inner circle. Start to learn what it means to receive it.

What issues or decisions do you need God's will revealed for right now?

Who will you process these things with this week—spouse, friend, inner circle?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

SESSION 2 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. According to Ephesians 3, who is the audience for the church's demonstration of God's wisdom—and what does that mean for how you operate?

2. What four things does Colossians 2 say Christ accomplished on the cross—and in what verb tense?

3. What does Isaiah 42 mean when it says God will give you "as a covenant for the people"?

For Deeper Understanding

1. Why is operating only in the natural realm a disadvantage against principalities and powers? What changes when you operate in both realms?

2. Signs and wonders were done "by the hands" of the apostles—not apart from them. How does this change your understanding of your role?

3. What's the relationship between being blessed yourself and being able to deliver the covenant to others?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

For Personal Application

1. Are you using your bold access to the throne room with confidence—or are you wasting the opportunity?

2. When someone comes to you with a problem, do you start with “God will give you the covenant” or with natural advice?

3. God is looking for faithful priests to raise up for Himself. Are you one of them? What would it take to become one?



LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING



He invites us to be the priests who also speak His Word and demonstrate to the principalities and powers the supernatural life that He has.

As we now continue in Session 3, we're going to get into specifically HOW do we carry out the role of a prophet. We've learned that we're called to be prophets, that Christ is the High Priest, and He invites us to be the priests who also speak His Word and demonstrate to the principalities and powers the supernatural life that He has.

So we're inviting people to that life by both living that life—we BECOME the covenant to them—and then we help them understand how to hear God's voice and the process by us speaking what God shows us.

It's really kind of fun that we get to be in that role, and we're going to learn the HOW of that.

So first of all, if we're going to think about how cool this is—if we're going to speak God's voice—probably what's important for us? We have to be HEARING His voice. And we'll look at what the Scriptures say about that.

THE VOICE OF THE LORD: POWERFUL AND MIGHTY

- **From the following scriptures:** As you read this psalm, what strikes you about the nature of God's voice?

Psalm 29:1-11 ESV

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon... The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

—Psalm 29:3-5, 7-9 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

—Psalm 29:10-11 ESV

So He's describing God speaking. What kind of struck you about that? It's POWERFUL. It's mighty. It has EFFECT. It makes things happen. It changes things. Nothing is greater than that.

And He said, "I will make it known to you." And then remember, He's going to ask us to be a conduit to speak it. So this is important: You're not speaking good ideas. You're not telling principles. You're not saying "you should." You have to be speaking the WORD OF GOD, which is POWERFUL—and that's where it's going to have impact.

So that's why it's critical that we've got to HEAR it and then SPEAK what He says—because His word is powerful, and it's applying the truth of the Scriptures to particular situations.

Austria Story: We were doing a retreat in Austria. During our afternoon time alone, we'd gone to this mountainous place with animals. We were sitting on this picnic table on this beautiful green, lush hill, and all of a sudden we see this calf SKIPPING down the hill. We were just in that verse—"He makes Lebanon skip like a calf"—and it was so cool to have the visual of that verse. It just gave us even more excitement that we were seeing what God was saying.

And what was that a picture of? JOY. While God is doing all this powerful stuff, He also wants you to live the life of a child, basically. Think of toddlers who skip around and they're jumping around—they're free and just enjoying it. So it's not just about doing gigantic things—it's for you to ENJOY the life of it. "I want you to have it, and I want to deliver to you: Shalom. Favor. Covenant." His purpose in speaking is to deliver SHALOM.

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

GOD SENDS OUT HIS VOICE

Psalm 68:33-35 ESV

To him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

—Psalm 68:33-35 ESV

So He sends out WHAT? Power. Strength. By doing what? What does it say? He sends out His WORD. “I’m sending out my word. I’m sending it to you. I want you to speak it out.” And it’s power, strength, might, fulfillment. It’s excellent.

Recognize that there’s more than just a lesson of some kind. There’s POWER to it, and you are to receive it and speak it out. Because He says, “I’m sending it out so that it fulfills itself.”

THE SPIRIT SPEAKS BY ME

- **From the following scriptures:** Who does the speaking—and through whom does it come?

2 Samuel 23:2-3 ESV

The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God...

—2 Samuel 23:2-3 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

So first of all, He says, who's speaking the words? The Spirit. But He's speaking HOW? "By me." Oh, so He's speaking, but it's actually coming out THROUGH me—implying you kind of get involved there.

And He says that it's coming out so that people can understand it and speak it. And if it's true—and He's speaking through me—then what must be true for me? I'm LISTENING. I'm HEARING what He's saying.

I'm hearing, understanding, and speaking. And I recognize it's not my good idea—I understand this is the Holy Spirit. I'm speaking the power of the Holy Spirit, speaking the words of the Holy Spirit.

As it grows, it becomes part of your life. Because at first you do have to learn: "Is this the Holy Spirit? Am I understanding the Holy Spirit?" And you're kind of dialoguing with Him about it. Pretty soon He just speaks and you speak, because you understand it. "Yeah, I can say this, I can reflect this—because it's HIM speaking, not me." And you recognize that He's speaking, but it's BY me.

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Jeremiah 10:1 ESV

Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

—Jeremiah 10:1 ESV

Now who's saying that? Jeremiah. So he's saying, "Hear what word?" The word of the Lord. What word? What He's speaking to you—to say to us. Who's saying it? The Lord. Through Jeremiah.

So as a prophet, particularly when you're working with people—and we'll get into the depth of this—you've got to be careful that they even think that's just YOU saying it.

"I have a word for you—from God. I'd like to share that with you." And we'll talk about permission and the availability and the receptivity of that. But it's to IDENTIFY it—because Jeremiah says it here: "Not MY word. No. Hear the word of the LORD." And if I were you, I'd listen.

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God's voice is described as powerful, majestic, and world-shaking—yet it also makes calves skip with joy. How do both of these fit together in what He wants to deliver to you?

2. "The Spirit of the LORD speaks BY me." If you're going to speak God's words, what must first be happening in you?

IN SYNC WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now think about it: The Holy Spirit speaking by me. I'm speaking God's word. That means I've got to be in the FLOW of the Holy Spirit and start to be in sync with the Holy Spirit. There's a great passage about this:

- **From the following scriptures:** Paul says he didn't come with "plausible words of wisdom." What did he come with instead—and why?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

—1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 ESV

But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

—1 Corinthians 2:9-12 ESV

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

—1 Corinthians 2:13-14 ESV

So he goes into it and says, "I'm not going to persuade you with just good words. I haven't come to do that." He says, "I'm not speaking human words, because if I was, then I'm just giving you my opinion—'Here's what I think you should do' or 'Here's what you should consider.'"

He said, "No, I've come to speak the POWER of the words from the Holy Spirit." Which means it's a flow-through, and he's in sync with the words of the Holy Spirit that he then can speak out. Because he says, "This isn't me. I'm being USED by the Holy Spirit, but the words are coming FROM the Holy Spirit."

So as I'm speaking the prophetic, it's the Holy Spirit, and it's coming through me—it's HIS words, not my good ideas. And by the way, my heart is NOT to persuade you.

Now think about how significant that is. If you're being used as a prophet, why is that piece of information—having a heart NOT to persuade—really important?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

Our job is to SPEAK it and leave the outcome to God. So then when they disagree, or when they're not sure, or they're debating it—do I need to engage? That's number one: We don't take offense at what they're saying, even if they're getting angry at us. Why not? Because we're speaking what God has told us to speak. It has nothing to do with me—not us. They're rejecting the truth of the Word, and that's not me. And God says, "That's not your responsibility. Don't worry about it."

Number two—and this is what the enemy is trying to do—is you started speaking God's word and they started to debate you. What does the enemy want you to do next? Engage back. Fight them.

Think about what happens: You stop the flow of the words. You EXIT the kingdom and start debating in the flesh. You're trying to persuade them because you think they should, and they're not getting it, and you've got to get them to get this. And you fight it and argue and debate with them.

And God says, "That's not your role—because you've just gone to basically no value. There's no more value anymore to what you're doing."

Criminal Defense Attorney Story: We had a retreat, and one guy came who was a practiced criminal defense attorney. His life is arguing and debating and trying to persuade—defending probably mostly guilty people, trying to persuade everybody why they're not. So he's super skilled at this. I start sharing Friday night—every way: debate, no, debate, nope, debate, debate, debate. My tendency is, 'Oh yeah...' But God said, 'No, you speak my words.' So I just said, 'Okay, I understand,' and kept going.

Everybody goes to bed. Linda and I go in our room—I'm like, 'What am I going to do with this guy?' Everybody is tense because he's causing so much contention. I'm not stimulating it and I'm not debating him, but it's just tense. 'Father, what do we do?' He said, 'First of all, don't hit the tar baby. And I'll give you an opening. Take it.'

So we start Saturday morning, and I'm about ready to get into the lesson. The guy says, 'Hey, I got something I want to say.' 'What?' 'The Bible says boom, boom, boom.' God says, 'Now. There you go.' I said, 'Are you sure? You're 100% sure? You're positive? You're 100% sure that the Bible says what you just said?' 'Yes.' 'Okay. Read this verse.' He reads it out loud and he stops. 'Oh my gosh, it doesn't say that. I'm so sorry. You know what? I'm a little bit prideful. I'm going to stop being so prideful. Go ahead with it.' 'We didn't have any more difficulties. God says, 'You don't need to worry about it. Don't engage. You don't need to persuade anybody. I'll take care of it.'

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

Because He said, “Eyes haven’t seen, ears haven’t heard, what I’m going to prepare to give to you.” You can’t get this through logic. You can’t get it through what you see. It’s going to have to come through REVELATION—that as a spiritual person, you receive it. And He said, “I’ve already prepared in advance. Don’t worry, I’ve got this covered. You follow what I’m going to do, and I’ve already given it. It’s going to come through revelation—spiritual stuff.”

And look at verse 12 again: “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things FREELY GIVEN us by God.”

So first of all, He says, “I’m FREELY giving this to you. You be a receiver, and as you receive it, you then can receive it and live it out.” So if you’re going to be a prophet, well, first of all, you’ve got to receive it. So your heart is always “What do You have to say?”—not “I think I should.” Your heart is just in that flow of “I’m going to receive.”

Then you encourage that person you’re speaking to, to do WHAT? Be a receiver. “You be a receiver. You be a processor. You don’t need to figure this out. God will reveal things to you—because I’m going to be helping you understand what it means to operate in the Holy Spirit.” And this is a wonderful thing, because freely, God’s going to give you the covenant. And let’s go experience it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When someone debates or rejects what you’re sharing from God, what are the two dangers? And what’s your actual job?

2. “Eyes haven’t seen, ears haven’t heard what God has prepared.” If it comes through revelation not logic, how does that change your approach to sharing

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Jesus, what is the Holy Spirit's job—and what will He do for you?

John 15:26-27 ESV

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

—John 15:26-27 ESV

John 16:13-15 ESV

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

—John 16:13-15 ESV

Now let's go back: We're sitting WHERE? At the right hand with Christ. "I'm going to speak. The Holy Spirit is going to speak to you and through you, and He's going to guide you into TRUTH."

And by the way, the word "truth" there is EVERYTHING you've got going on—not just theological truth. Because you care about your stuff. "Okay, what's the TRUTH about that? I'll guide you into that truth. I'll give you resolution. I'll show you God's answer."

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And His job is to transfer all that is Christ to you by DECLARING it. And the word is “declare”—as He speaks it to you, you be in process. That’s the role of the Holy Spirit.

And all you have to do is have a heart to be LED—to the truth, to God’s answer—and let Him lead you and guide you. That’s His role, and He’s speaking it. So we just have to learn to get in that flow.

So if He’s leading us, what are we doing? We have to be FOLLOWING. And think about it: if you’re being directed by somebody and you’re supposed to follow them, what do you have to do? Pay attention. You’ve got to kind of be next to them. There’s a level of trust. And then following what they’re saying.

European Driving Story: Before GPS, we would do these European retreats. The maps in Europe don’t match the reality of the roads—particularly in France! So we would go to our host at the castle and say, ‘We’re trying to get to here. How do we get there?’ Well, I asked the question—I’d like to be guided. I did trust him. And what did they do? ‘Okay, here’s what you do. I’m going to tell you what to do.’

Now, remember, there’s six cars doing this. They’ve got to follow me. I’ve got to follow directions, and they’ve got to follow me. And by the way, that wasn’t easy because I don’t like driving slow. A lot of times: ‘Linda, where are they?’ ‘You’re losing them!’ But I would have to pay attention and listen and process through it and look at the map and then say, ‘Okay, I’m going to follow those directions.’ Why? Because it’s going to get me to where I want to go. And that’s how it works with the Holy Spirit—He’s going to get you where you need to go. You just have to pay attention. Let’s go.

Jesus Says: “Ask”

And then Jesus made an interesting statement:

John 16:23-24 ESV

In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

—John 16:23-24 ESV

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Now this is a very interesting statement. This is right before He prays to the Father and goes to Gethsemane. "Up until now, you haven't prayed at all. You haven't learned that. You've never asked anything. Now it's going to change."

Well, why would He make that statement to them? What was He saying to them? "Up until now, you haven't prayed. You haven't asked anything."

He said, "You've been praying!" Because they've been TALKING to Him. Why? "I've been—you've been with me the whole time. You're with me, dialoguing. I say things to you. You say things to me. I instruct you, I lead you, I guide you, I challenge you, I interpret. You guys got a lot of questions. And we've been living life together and getting to show you something about authority."

By this time, knowing—remember when they first started? Did they know anything about healing? No. Did they think God could handle the wind and the waves? No, they had to learn it. They've been learning and learning. Authority. Experiencing. Why? Because they've been WITH Him.

He said, "Okay, from now on, you've got to pray to the Father, and He'll speak to you." On what basis? What was going to happen to them? The Holy Spirit was going to come IN them. And they'll be able to have that communication with the Father.

See how critical that is? Christ made it clear: "Look, guys, you've been operating this way. Interesting enough, it's NOT changing. You think it's changing? It's not changing at all. It's going to be actually EASIER because all of you will be able to function in the life that you've been given. Because it's actually not even—how close are you to me physically now? Everybody is close to me. Why? Because I'm WITHIN you. And the way that we function is going to continue."

So your process with the Holy Spirit—and this is something that's hard to imagine because we tend to think of prayer as "I'm praying to God up there who doesn't like me very much because I'm not that good and I'm not following this stuff." And He says, "Actually, I LOVE you. I'm within you. Why don't you come be with me and I'll give you this super abundant life?" How? Operate the same way we just did.

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Alden Light Story: We do podcasts, and we had a guest—a young man, Alden Light. When I first met him, he was in that boat of ‘I’ve got a super complex situation and I’m really discouraged and I can’t figure this out. Every step that I take, I think I’m doing it wrong.’ He was just down. ‘Would you want to come and learn that God can resolve it?’ ‘Yeah... Do you think so?’ ‘Yep. I guarantee you.’ And he learned how to abide. And guess what God did? Solved it. Supernatural stuff. More and more and more.

So he’s now bearing witness to the supernatural work of walking with God and learning to walk in the Holy Spirit. We were asking him on our podcast, ‘Tell me about abiding. What does it mean to abide?’ He said, ‘I learned an interesting thing. People look at abiding as doing Bible study. I learned I get to TALK to God all day long and everything—and He talks to me and I talk to Him because He’s there in the Holy Spirit.’ That’s it! That’s what Jesus said. Just live with me all the time on everything. It’s going to be the same. It’s not going to change. It’ll be the same because of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The disciples had been “praying” the whole time by being with Jesus and dialoguing. How does that change your understanding of what prayer is supposed to look like?

2. “It’s not going to change—it’ll be the same because of the Holy Spirit.” If Jesus is WITHIN you, how should that affect your daily interaction with Him?

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MAKE DISCIPLES: TEACH THEM THE LIFE

Now look at the impact of that:

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

—Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

So He said, "Go make disciples through the authority I'm going to give you." Teaching them to do WHAT? Live the life of God. Teach them HOW to live the life of God—which means hearing, processing, walking, following, experiencing. Teach them THAT.

Now, this is important—because when we look at discipleship, we tend to look at "I've got to teach them a book and these principles, and I'm going to disciple them." That's not what He said. Teach them to ENJOY the life of walking with me.

Now think about this: If I'm going to teach them that, what must be true of me? I have to be living that life myself. Enjoying that life. Because, see, it's not "Here's what you should do." It's "Here's what I'M doing, and I'm experiencing—and I can demonstrate it to you in real stuff. Supernatural stuff. Things that really happen."

"Let me help you learn how to do that as well." So you're not telling them, "Go do A, B, and C." You're saying, "Let me show you how to walk with God, and HE'LL show you what to do and where to go." That's why it's always unique.

And by the way, when I disciple people and they say, "Would you like to learn this?" and they finally say, "Okay, why not?" I say, "Okay, first I've got to help you understand what it means to walk with the Holy Spirit and hear His voice." And I can teach you that. Now, by the way, it's not something you DO—it's something you RECEIVE. And then they do.

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Catholic Executives Story: A guy and his wife came to a retreat. They were Catholics who typically hadn't been in the Word of God at all—"I go to church and they tell me the Word, but I don't get into the Word." Well, they came and got in the Word. Their life changed. He calls me up: "I've got these big-shot executives in the church, and they'd like to learn because they said, 'What happened to you?'" I said I've learned how to walk with God and hear God's voice. "Can you teach us that?" I said I can't, but I know Rich can."

So I said, "Look, I know these guys are not only executives, but they're operational as leaders of the Catholic Church parish—really deep into this stuff. Before we do, I want to say something: All we're going to do is get in the Word of God. I'm not here to challenge your theology. I'm not here to challenge your principles. But they're going to BE challenged. I'm telling you right now." So they went to the priest. The priest said, "God bless that guy. If he can teach you how to hear God's voice—hallelujah, go ahead."

Now we start. I said, "Turn to John 15." "Where is that?" Uh oh—they don't even know. Better back up a step. So we start: "Here's what it means to hear the voice of God and walk in the Holy Spirit." In 30 DAYS—this is the first 30 days of people who know NOTHING about this—in 30 days, they're all hearing God's voice. It's cool. "I was on the train going downtown Chicago and God said this..." And they got so excited because it was the work of the Spirit. All you've got to do is have a heart to receive it. That's it.

I couldn't say, "Go do these things." Let me help you understand the LIFE of it. And when you understand the life of it, you're off and running—and I'm just going to walk with you where God takes you. Which is kind of fun.

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FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 4:29-31 ESV

‘And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

—Acts 4:29-31 ESV

Read the last verse again. What happened? They were gathered together, was shaken, and they were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

The key point is they’re filled with WHO? The Holy Spirit. They didn’t go out and persuade people. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they boldly spoke the word of God. And the word there is “what God says.” What does God say for you to say? Well, say that BOLDLY. Why? Because it’s the Word of God, and you’re filled with the Holy Spirit.

And they’re of one accord and they understand it. “Let’s do this together.” And they were speaking boldly—interesting enough, to each other, and then to others around them as they were coming into the church. And they just kept that going: “We’re going to be living, working, functioning in the Holy Spirit and boldly speaking with the Holy Spirit speaking”—which is the POWER. Which is why people were gathered.

Now think of how the church is so weak—because really, it’s just preaching a bunch of information. It’s talking ABOUT God. It’s not speaking the WORDS of God. What would be more important would be for small groups to be together and people speaking the Word of God. The power will just explode! And that’s how it happens—because they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

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THE KINGDOM: RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

Romans 14:17-19 ESV

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

—Romans 14:17-19 ESV

So the kingdom of God is WHAT? Righteousness, peace, and joy. WHERE? In the Holy Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Remember, it's where everything comes together. You're operating in both places, and you're delivering the kingdom into the world with the power. So you're not afraid of the world—you're actually OVERCOMING the world because you're in the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy.

And the characteristic is SHALOM. Favor. Joy. You're excited. Righteousness—because Christ has given you His righteousness, and you're living it out because you're in the kingdom.

And it doesn't say "talk good words." It says just BE in the kingdom—because the Holy Spirit will talk the words. Your job is just to be there and listen and process and speak.

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THE GOD OF HOPE

Romans 15:13, 16 ESV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

—Romans 15:13 ESV

...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:16 ESV

He says, “I pray that the God of hope...” The word there, by the way, isn’t “God who hopes you do well”—kind of like “I wish you’d do well, I hope you have a good day.” It’s the God of hope who’s CERTAINLY going to deliver the life that He promises.

“Fill you with hope through the Holy Spirit.” That’s where you get confidence. That’s where you get excitement. You recognize that He’s taken you that way.

And that’s why the prophetic is so important—because you’ve got people speaking into that, and you’re speaking into it and receiving it. The words are beginning to be meaningful, and it brings you hope, excitement, certainty that it’s going to be delivered. And goodness.

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THE THESSALONIANS EXAMPLE

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8 ESV

Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

—1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 ESV

Now when you look at Scripture again, you just see the beauty and the simplicity of it. He says, “I didn’t come to you with human words. I spoke the words of the Holy Spirit. That’s what I came to do.” And I spoke them. You did WHAT? You received them and started to live the life of God. That was my role—to prophetically invite you to that place, speak the Word of God, get you into the Word of God. You receive it and start to experience the Word of God.

He said, when you did, what did they then do next? They GAVE IT AWAY. You see how cool that is? He said, “I was used to just speak to you. You spoke to the WHOLE AREA by living it out.” The Holy Spirit fulfilled His purpose. He did his part of it, and he didn’t have to do the rest of it. Why? Because it’s a flow-through.

And the prophetic is that way: I’m influencing this person, this thing, to encourage them to receive what God is saying. God’s intention is for them to EXPERIENCE what He’s saying. They experience what He’s saying. Then they speak it out. It happened. They start learning.

And by the way, he said, the whole thing is based on WHAT? The Holy Spirit. Why? It’s the SAME Holy Spirit. Everybody who’s a believer has it. That’s why everybody’s called to be a prophet. And don’t think, “Well, yeah, but I’m not good enough. I don’t know the Bible.” That’s not—just start abiding in the Bible and start giving it away.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul says the church is weak when it talks ABOUT God instead of speaking the WORDS of God. What's the difference?

2. The Thessalonians received the Word, experienced it, and gave it away to the whole region—Paul didn't have to say anything. What does this "flow-through" model look like in your life?

ASK FOR WISDOM

And then He says, as you do that, you're going to have questions. What do you do with those questions?

James 1:5-8 ESV

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

—James 1:5-8 ESV

So He said, as you're trying to clarify what God is speaking—applying it to you and applying to others—your role is to do WHAT? Just ask Him. He said, "I'll give it to you liberally." And the word there is "with great specificity." And you'll be able to receive it and then speak it.

And He said the only condition is that you have to BELIEVE that He's going to speak it. It's not that you believe what He says at first—He said that may take some time for you to get to faith on that, and "I'm the author and finisher of faith, so I'm not talking about that."

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You believe what He says at first? No—it's that you believe HE WILL SAY IT. He said, "If you don't believe that, I'm not talking to you."

There's a very practical reason for that. "God, I would like to know an answer." "Do you expect me to tell you the answer?" "No, not really." "Well, I'm not going to tell you." Why not? "If I told you, you would still wonder: 'Is that from Him or from me or somebody else?' No, you've got to get it clear: I'm going to speak to you, and you've got to receive it. And I guarantee it."

And see, as I was describing with those guys in Chicago—they knew NOTHING. Zero. And they were hearing God's voice because they got it settled: "Right now, I'm going to just accept that I can hear God's voice." God said, "If you accept that—that you can hear my voice—I'll tell you. And you'll start hearing my voice, and you'll know it's me." Why? You need wisdom. You need application. You need understanding. And it's processing.

And as you do—think about you as a prophet—you need it first of all for YOUR stuff, because you're in that same place and you need people speaking into that. Now you're helping somebody else. The key, if you're going to speak to somebody else, is WHAT? Speak God's words. Are you CLEAR on that? Do you understand it? Do you have a unity about that? And that takes time.

So it's not like, "Oh yeah, oh yeah." It's like, "Am I hearing this right? Am I understanding this right? How do we apply this? This person has this problem—what do You want me to know about that?" And He said, "I'll speak to you, and you've got to have a heart to receive it and ask for it."

TEST THE SPIRITS

1 John 4:1-6 ESV

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world... Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

—1 John 4:1, 4-6 ESV

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He said, “The spirit of truth—test it. Examine it. Make sure that you prove it out.” On two levels: if someone’s speaking to you, what are you to do? EXAMINE: “Is this coming from God?”

And there’s a couple important things. One is: Does it line up with Scripture? A lot of times it doesn’t, and you already automatically know—“Well, that’s not from God” because it doesn’t line up with Scripture.

Maybe it lines up with Scripture, but am I understanding it? Now this is cool—think about what we just read: Ask for wisdom. Somebody says something to you. You’re not sure. You’ve done an initial examination—if it doesn’t line up with Scripture, just discard it. Maybe it does, but I’m not sure. What would you do? Ask God for wisdom: “Are You saying this?” What do you expect? An answer. What will God say? “Yep, that’s me.” Or, “Nope, it’s not.” He’ll confirm it with you.

And He said, “Test it all the time. Be careful, because there’s a lot of false prophets.” A false prophet gets in the way—that is, “I want to tell you what I think you should do, and I’m saying this from God, but it’s not.” And God says, “Well, you’ve got to test it and evaluate it. Make sure that it’s from me. And just ask me—I’ll just say so.”

So there’ll be a lot of times where people will say something—either about their own life or about something even impacting me. And I’ve learned to say, “God, is that—did You say that?” And the cool thing is it’s like, “Yeah,” or, “No, I didn’t say that at all.” And now what I say is, “I can’t confirm that what you just said is true.” I don’t debate, I don’t argue—I just say, “I can’t confirm it.” And I would urge you to keep going—either with your stuff, or if it’s been trying to impact me, I just don’t even worry about it.

Ananias Example: Paul was approached by Jesus, understands it’s Jesus, gets blind and is led into Damascus. God says, ‘A guy is going to come and lay hands on you in three days.’ So God goes to Ananias, who’s a disciple, and God says, ‘I want you to go and lay hands on Saul.’ Ananias says, ‘I don’t think so. Do you know who you’re talking about? He’s going to kill me or throw me in jail. I don’t think this is a good idea.’

But he basically said, ‘Could You help me understand?’ And God said, ‘I understand. I’m reminding you. Confirming I said it. That’s your assignment. This is about him. And yes, the answer is yes.’ Did God mind that he had to reconfirm it? No! Challenge is okay—as long as you have a heart to receive it. ‘And I’ll confirm it for you. Don’t worry. But I will confirm it for you, and then I’ll help you confirm it as you give it to that other party.’

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And then as you give it to another party, what do you say to them? "Here's what God is saying." I urge you to do WHAT? "You go find out for yourself." Because God will do WHAT? He will speak to you. Absolutely.

Now, if it's from God, it'll get to them. Don't worry. People come and I say, "Okay, here's what I hear God saying. God will confirm it for you. You go. Don't just stop and accept what I just said. You go and confirm it."

It goes one of two ways: "I don't even know what you're talking about. What do you mean, hear God's voice and confirm it?" "Well, you know what? I think that's going to be an important piece. How about if I teach you that? Let me teach you that, and then we'll come back to this—because otherwise you're never going to get there anyway."

Or two: "You go take the time and process and expect God to confirm it for you. Because if He said it to me about you, He'll say it to you about you. Trust it and go learn." And now guess what? You teach them that. What do they now know? "I know how to confirm stuff. God's going to ask me to speak to other people, and I'll ask them to confirm it as well." So it's a beautiful process.

PERMISSION AND BOLDNESS

And again, it depends on who you're involved with. For Linda and me, we can speak to each other what God says—we hear God. My inner circle has already given me permission to speak it: "If you hear something, you can come and tell me. I'm giving you permission anytime."

People beyond that haven't given me permission. Sometimes I get things for other people. So what I do is say, "I think I've heard something from God. Would you be open to me sharing that with you?" Most of the time: "Yes." Some people say, "No." Okay. That's all right.

"Yeah, I would." Okay. Now I say it, and then I say, "You go confirm it—because if it's true, it's true, and He'll confirm it for you. Don't worry." The pressure isn't on me at all. My role is to do WHAT? Speak the truth of what I hear to be right—the words of God. The outcome doesn't matter to me because I'm not engaged with that. And now I'm going to encourage them to stay with God and get confirmed.

And see, the more that I can teach people to be prophets—by me being a prophet to them, and then teaching them to be a prophet to others—it goes on. Their body, their group, starts to get influenced by that. Now I don't even know who those people are. I never even usually associate with them. But because I invested in one guy, he has influence over that group. That's how it works. That's why the role of the prophet is so critical.

It means we have to be engaged with the people in our groups and NOT be afraid. A lot of times we actually don't want to say something. How come? We know we're supposed to say something, but we have a response: "I'm afraid that

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they're going to think not highly of me, or maybe if it's not right, or gosh, I don't know how they're going to respond to that. I don't want to cause conflict."

So you've decided NOT to fulfill God's purpose? God said to Jeremiah, "I know you don't like this. And I know they're not listening to you. I'm telling you, you get back out there and you speak the truth. You're my messenger, and I'm inviting them to something, and I want to use you to invite them." So expect it.

Linda: *"As a prophetess, I feel more confident to speak it, knowing that they are also going to confirm it. So it makes me feel more bold as I speak to somebody, that then they have to also plug in and confirm it themselves. Because oftentimes we get afraid—like, did we hear it right?—that they can have assurance, knowing that on their end they need to confirm it."*

Why would that make you bolder? It just brings humility to it. And see, the burden really isn't on me because I'm not definitive. "Here's something I hear God saying. You go process it. And if He's really saying this, don't worry—He'll confirm it." And maybe I don't even have all of it yet—I just have a piece of it. It's okay. That's not my role. It's just to tell you what I know. But it's fun. And then you say something, and they do, and they receive it, and they get the life of God. It's exciting. Which is what it's all about.

PROPHET SUBJECT TO PROPHET

1 Corinthians 14:29-33, 39 ESV

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

—1 Corinthians 14:29-33 ESV

So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

—1 Corinthians 14:39 ESV

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He says, “Do it in order. The prophet is subject to the prophet.” Because if it’s God, you would gladly do WHAT? You’re trying to help a group. You’re trying to help people understand something, and you believe God’s saying something. You would gladly OPEN IT UP—so other people can help add to it, or say, “Yeah, I’m not sure about that.”

Do you care? You don’t care! What do you want? The TRUTH to be spoken—because the power is in the truth. And I don’t even have to know the whole truth or even have it. I could even be off. That’s okay.

God said, “Let’s do it in order. Share orderly. Let other people weigh in and make sure that you’re interpreting what I’m saying—so that people UNDERSTAND what you’re saying.” What good does it do to tell them all this great stuff and they don’t have a clue what you’re talking about?

And usually it generates questions. “God is saying this...” and they say, “What? I don’t know what that means.” “Okay, let me do WHAT? Let me help you walk into that. Let’s go find out.” See, it’s not like a momentary-only thing. It’s a stimulation of a walk with God. And I’ll be engaged with that. I’ll help them. So we do it together.

PROPHECY IS NOT PRIVATE

2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV

Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV

So he says, “Prophecy isn’t private. Open it up to the public. Open it up to others.”

Like, as a husband and wife, a conversation we often have is “I heard God say...” What we do is say, “Would you process that with me? What do you think about that? What do you understand about that? Do you confirm that?” And sometimes: “No, I don’t. I don’t really confirm that.” Should that bother me? No. Why? Because I willingly offer it publicly.

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Because what do I care about? TRUTH. I want to get to the truth. And I don't have to know the whole truth. So, "Hey, what do you think?" And other people—you would offer it up and say, "Go confirm it. Hey, add to this. Here's what I hear God saying." Let's have other people around me that, by the way, have a heart for God, to weigh in.

What do you care about? Not that it's coming from you or that you're right. It's that you get to the TRUTH. That's what I want. Let's get to the truth. And it's about openness, permission.

So as I'm walking through God's will, somebody can say to me, "I think you should do this," or "I challenge you on this." I receive that as, "Okay, I'm going to go now—to God—and say, 'Are You trying to say something to me?'" By the way, it could be an unbeliever. They can say something—they don't even know they're saying it, but God's saying, "I'm trying to show you something here." Okay?

Now He could say, "No, you don't need to worry about that. Don't pay attention to that." Okay. But I'm WILLING to go find out. Why? I want the truth. I don't care where it comes from. But I do know something: God will CONFIRM IT if it's from Him. Which means I can get confirmed. I can help others get confirmed.

CLOSING CHARGE

So think about as you're learning to be prophetic—which is what everybody is called to—first of all, He's got to show you truth. So you'll start to be engaged with people around you. He'll show you truth. You'll see it. You'll get a clarity about it—"Whoa."

And sometimes it's like, "Do you see what's going on there?" "Yep, I do." Now, here's the next question: "Do You want me to say something?" Just because I know it doesn't mean I have PERMISSION to say it.

Because at first, particularly when you're learning this, you're going to see the truth, see the truth, see the truth. And you say, "Yeah, I see it. Am I supposed to say something?" Most of the time: "Nope. I'm just showing you the truth to build your confidence of you seeing truth." Okay.

Pretty soon: "Yep. I do want you to say something. I want you to do it." And particularly when you have inner circle people around you, you get a little bit stronger—because you ask them permission and then say, "Hey, God said something to me that I'd like you to receive. Would you be willing to go?"

And interesting enough, if you FAIL to do that, you've actually harmed God's will. He needed you to say something, and you wouldn't do it because you were afraid of it. "Do You want me to say something?" "Yeah." And then when I say it: "Here's what I hear God saying. You go confirm it." Or if you're in a group: "Let's all confirm that," and you work at it. So it becomes an enjoyable thing.

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

And remember, it's ENCOURAGING. Even if it's a warning, it's to repent and come back. "Here's what I'm trying to say to you."

So as you look at the beauty of the aspect of it: We serve as priests. We are bringing people to the life of God. We are speaking HIS voice, not ours. We're getting confirmation, and it's always to direct them to the truth and to have them live out the life of God. Which means we have to CONNECT them to the life of God. It's not about "you should." It's "Let me help you confirm, receive, live out."

Because when you live out the covenant—I know something about that—if they start living out the covenant, what's going to happen? They're going to experience it. And they're going to GIVE IT AWAY. 100%. And that's what God says. That's the role of the priest and the prophet.

THIS WEEK'S APPLICATION:

As you think about it, particularly a couple of things: You probably have family members, husband and wife, friends, small group. Begin to really go DEEPER into this—of what is God saying to me about my life, that I could invite others to speak into that? And then, what are others involved that I have a relationship with, that I can start speaking into their life? But learn how to do it in a really healthy, beautiful way—never heavy-handed, never judgmental, but rather the joy of everybody realizing how beautiful it is to walk with God. And we get to do that together.

Who has given you permission to speak into their life? Who could you ask for that permission?

What is God showing you right now that you need others to weigh in on and confirm?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

SESSION 3 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. According to 1 Corinthians 2, what is the difference between speaking “in plausible words of wisdom” and speaking “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”?

2. What does James 1:5-8 say is the ONE condition for receiving wisdom from God—and what does that actually mean?

3. According to 1 John 4, how are you supposed to “test the spirits”—and what’s the purpose of testing?

For Deeper Understanding

1. The disciples had been “praying” by being with Jesus and dialoguing all along. Now the Holy Spirit is WITHIN you. How should your “prayer life” actually look?

2. When someone debates or rejects what you’re sharing from God, why is engaging and trying to persuade them actually harmful to the process?

3. “The prophet is subject to the prophet”—why does God want prophecy to be public and open to others weighing in, rather than private and definitive?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

For Personal Application

1. Do you believe God WILL speak to you if you ask? If not, what's blocking you from settling that question right now?

2. Think of a time you saw something true about someone's situation but didn't say anything because you were afraid. What did that cost them? What did it cost God's purposes?

3. Who in your life has permission to speak into you? And who have you asked permission to speak into? What would change if you expanded both circles?

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES



We have an opportunity to build the body by speaking to each other. Not what we think is a good idea, but rather God's word—which is what we learned.

As we now conclude this course with Session 4, we're going to get into real examples—biblical examples of people that were operating in the prophetic. What does that mean? What does that look like?

We're not going to be worried about the content of what they said. It's more about HOW IT WORKED—because that's what we're trying to learn. How do we join God in being prophetic?

As we started the course, we set it up with: We're ALL called to be prophetic. Why? Because He calls us all to be the royal priesthood. He has a heart to relate truth to us, give us truth, and have us join Him in the kingdom. Because remember, heaven and earth are a unit, so we're to operate in that spiritual place of both the kingdom of heaven AND while we're on earth dealing with trouble and other issues. But we're called to speak to that.

And so it's for us FIRST: What is God saying to us? We process and let other people speak into our life. And then as we walk with God, we begin to have the opportunity to speak into other people's lives—think primarily your closest people around you. It would be you and your spouse, you and your good friend if you're single, you and your inner circle, you and your small group, maybe you and your church.

We have an opportunity to build the body by speaking to each other. Not what we think is a good idea, but rather God's word—which is what we learned. And we process: hearing those words, speaking those words, confirming those words, and then drawing people into the life of God that can help them experience the supernatural, to receive the abundant life, to live out the covenant. And we're part of that process—which means we're living there and we invite others to live there.

So we're going to go through these examples.

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

JEREMIAH: A PROPHET'S JOURNEY

The whole book of Jeremiah is the example. So we won't read the whole book at once, but we'll read pieces of it.

EXAMPLE 1: THE CALL OF JEREMIAH

- **From the following scriptures:** Jeremiah says he's not capable. What does God say back—and why?

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 11-12 ESV

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 1:5-8 ESV

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

—Jeremiah 1:9-10 ESV

And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

—Jeremiah 1:11-12 ESV

LESSON 4

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So He says, “I’m calling you to speak my words.” And Jeremiah says, “Well, I’m not capable.” What does God say? “Don’t say that.”

Now, why does He say that? It’s not about YOU—it’s about ME. It’s not capability. So as we’re stepping into the prophetic, don’t even think, “Well, I’ve got to be in this course for the next three months, and then I’ll be able to...” How about if you just start experiencing it NOW? It’s about God, not about you.

And then He says to him: Speak what I tell you and go where I send you. So if you’re going to be prophetic, what’s kind of important for you to know? What God’s saying. And who am I actually supposed to say this to?

He says, “I’ll put my words in your mouth.” Only speak those. Don’t add to it. And by the way, we believers are great at that—“God said...” and then we add. Just say what He says—which is usually less than what we’d say.

And then He actually ends it and says, “Okay, let’s try this out. What do you see?” So what did God do? He said, “Let’s go try this out.” He gave him a vision. “Do you see how this works? I’m going to do something. All you’ve got to do is look, observe, and hear. That’s it. I’ll do it.” “What do you see?” “I see this.” “Cool. You see correctly. That’s good news. And by the way, I’m ready to perform everything I say.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God told Jeremiah, “Don’t say you’re only a youth”—because it’s not about capability. What excuses do YOU make for why you can’t be prophetic?

2. God tested Jeremiah immediately: “What do you see?” How does God train us through small exercises like this?

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 2: THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME

- **From the following scripture:** How does Jeremiah describe the way God's word arrives?

Jeremiah 2:1 ESV

The word of the LORD came to me, saying...

—Jeremiah 2:1 ESV

How did it work? "The word of the Lord CAME TO ME." He understood that it came to him. And now you're supposed to speak it out. But first it's got to come to you—and you don't need to dream it up. When He's ready to speak, He'll speak.

The question is really: "What do you have to say? Are you asking me to hear this?" Yes. The word of the Lord came to me.

EXAMPLE 3: GOD PROVIDES CONTEXT

- **From the following scripture:** Before giving Jeremiah a message, what does God do first?

Jeremiah 3:6 ESV

The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore?"

—Jeremiah 3:6 ESV

LESSON 4

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So He's providing context. "Hey, Jeremiah, do you see what's going on here?" And Jeremiah says, "Yeah, it's this, this, and this." So He's going to get your attention. And first of all, He says, as you understand context, do you FIRST understand what's happening here? What's going on? Discuss it with God. Understand it with God. So He clarifies that.

EXAMPLE 4: AT A CROSSROADS

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell them to do when they're not sure which way to go?

Jeremiah 6:16 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it."

—Jeremiah 6:16 ESV

When you're at a crossroads, what does that imply? A decision. "I could go that way or that. I'm not sure." So He said, you're at a point where you're not sure. He says, "Look and ask." For what? Truth. The good way. "Which is the good way? Help me understand the right way, so then I can help other people get to the right way for this situation."

And He says, "Then walk in it and you will find rest for your soul." And by the way, don't let it impact you that their response was WHAT? They refused to go. He didn't say, "Well, then MAKE them go." He said, "Okay, just go to the next thing. Don't worry about it. You are to do this: Speak that and go."

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BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 5: THEY WON'T LISTEN—SO WHY BOTHER?

- **From the following scripture:** God tells Jeremiah in advance that they won't listen. So why send him at all?

Jeremiah 7:27 ESV

"So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you."

—Jeremiah 7:27 ESV

It's kind of funny, really, because I'm thinking—I read that: "Say this to them. They're not going to listen one iota to you and won't follow anything you say." My response would be WHAT? "Well, why bother? You already know that—then why bother?"

He said, "Son, did I tell you to be caring about what?" The bother is because He and His heart, regardless of knowing what they're going to do, is STILL inviting them to the best. "You're my messenger of inviting them to the best. So don't think it's not valuable. It's valuable."

Now, by the way, when you think about that, what ultimately did it say to Jeremiah when God said, "I'm inviting them—I know they're not going to accept it, but I'm inviting them to the best"? What did Jeremiah then understand? "Hey, son, when I ask YOU, don't reject what I have to say. I'm inviting you to the best. They're not doing it—but I think it'd be a good idea if you did."

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BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God still sends invitations through you even when He knows they won't listen. What does that reveal about His heart?

2. Their refusal is not your problem—"just go to the next thing." How does that free you from anxiety about people's responses?

EXAMPLE 6: DON'T GET PUFFED UP

- **From the following scripture:** What does God say to glory in—and what NOT to glory in?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

He says, "I want you to understand who I am in this process, and I am giving the covenant—my loving-kindness—and I'm inviting people to the grand life. And I want you to glory not in your wisdom but in HIS wisdom. His life. I don't want you to add your own wisdom to this."

"I don't want you to glory and think, because you've been given this opportunity..." Because pretty soon, when it proves to be true for people, there is a tendency for those people to then view you how? "You're special and you're gifted. I'm going to come and spend more time around you." And they talk about you.

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And God says, “You know what? I’m talking about you. This ain’t you. So don’t get puffed up—because it is a gift. And it’s a beautiful gift. And people will recognize it. But keep pushing it back to them to go to ME.”

EXAMPLE 7: SPEAK THE COVENANT

- **From the following scripture:** What message can you be assured God will always include when you speak for Him?

Jeremiah 11:1-3 ESV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: “Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant.”

—Jeremiah 11:1-3 ESV

So He’s saying, one of the messages that you’re going to give is THE COVENANT. Now, how come you can be assured that the words you’re going to be speaking—as you get involved with people—is going to include covenant? Why can you be assured of that? It’s His nature. He does this with everybody.

Remember, they’re coming with, “I’ve got a big problem. I’m really stuck. It’s awful. And I don’t know how to get out of it. And everybody around me is just telling me to live with it.”

“Well, okay, let’s learn something here. I know you don’t understand this, but God will provide the covenant to you—blessed to be a blessing—which will show you what that means.” And I start with that because that’s God’s nature. Which means you’ve got a problem? It’ll get resolved. It won’t just get resolved—it’s going to turn into a blessing. And as you receive that blessing, you’ll give it away to somebody else. I can start there.

As He walks you down the path, you’ll get to the point where you’ll learn about the covenant. But you can at least understand that that’s where God starts. And He says, “Speak the covenant and know that it’s going to be included.”

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EXAMPLE 8: STRANGE INSTRUCTIONS—OBEY WITHOUT FULL UNDERSTANDING

- **From the following scripture:** God gives Jeremiah a strange command with no explanation. What does Jeremiah do—and why?

Jeremiah 13:1-11 ESV

Thus says the LORD to me, "Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water." So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist. And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, "Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. And after many days the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there." Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.

—Jeremiah 13:1-7 ESV

So how does He interact with Jeremiah in this situation? He's giving him a visual demonstration of what's going to happen.

And this is important: Did He explain everything to Jeremiah? NO. "Go buy a loincloth." No explanation. "Now go bury it." And at this point, he has no idea—ZERO idea—what this means. But what did he do? He did it. How come he did it? He obeyed because God said so.

So interesting enough, as you're involved in the prophetic, once in a while you're going to have some really STRANGE instructions. And He says, "I'm building a little story here. Go with me. Don't second-guess me. And do not ask me to explain it. Just follow. There'll be a moment when you will."

And then He finally put it all together. And then God said, "Now what you've just seen, experienced, and understood is going to happen here." And he put two and two together.

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Now think—because the way we would look at it is, “Well, just tell me what you’re going to do. Why do I need that?” Why did Jeremiah need that? What did it do for Jeremiah? It BUILT CONFIDENCE. And cemented the visual of what God was saying. He could relate to what God was saying because he SAW it right there in front of him. And he understood now exactly what God was saying.

So if God would have just said, “It’s going to be this”—okay, okay, fine. But he actually EXPERIENCED it and said, “Oh, that’s what it’s all about.” And most of that story is just between Jeremiah and God. Why? “Because I’m doing something with you to cement it with you, to show you, and to make you have confidence in what I’m going to do and say and understand what I’m going to do and say—because the rest of them won’t. But you will.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God gave Jeremiah strange instructions (bury a loincloth) without explaining why. How willing are you to obey without understanding first?

2. Object lessons cement understanding and build confidence. When has God used an experience to teach you something words alone couldn’t convey?

EXAMPLE 9: CONCERNING WHAT’S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW

- **From the following scripture:** What’s the context for this word from God?

Jeremiah 14:1 ESV

The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought...

—Jeremiah 14:1 ESV

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"Came to me concerning THIS." Right now is happening right now. There's something happening right now, and I have something for you to say and to relate to. So it's not just a grand philosophy. This is happening RIGHT NOW for this situation. "I want you to say something right now." And it came to me.

EXAMPLE 10: DIFFICULT MESSAGES—DON'T ADD YOUR PHILOSOPHY

- **From the following scripture:** This is a harsh message. What was God's PURPOSE in having Jeremiah deliver it?

Jeremiah 15:1-4 ESV

Then the LORD said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go! And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'"

—Jeremiah 15:1-2 ESV

So, "Hey, Jeremiah, tell them it's very serious what's going on here. Here's what's going to happen to you." Now, Jeremiah's perspective—particularly as a believer—a lot of believers say, "Well, I don't think we should say that. Aren't we supposed to only say nice things?" And God said, "No, that's what I want you to say."

Now, what was God's PURPOSE in saying this difficult thing? What did He want them to do? How did He want them to respond? REPENT. Turn back to Him. By saying, "Can we avoid this? Is there a way to avoid this?"—which God would have said, "Yeah, you can repent."

So Jeremiah wasn't even asked to tell the whole story—which was, "Hey, by the way, if you repent, blah blah blah." He just said, "This is going to happen." Why? To get them to think, "Is there a way to avoid this?"

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So He said, “You may not like the message. Say what I tell you to say. Don’t add your own thought to it.” And by the way, this is one of the biggest problems of the Christian church, particularly when we get into discussing difficult relationships—because, “Well, aren’t we supposed to let them keep hurting me? Because that’s showing love?” And God said, “Actually, you’re not. You need to speak up. You need to speak truth to the situation. So don’t you lay on your philosophy. You say what I have to say. And by the way, the story is not over yet. It’s step by step by step. We’ll see what happens next.”

EXAMPLE 11: DON’T JOIN THEM

- **From the following scripture:** Jeremiah is complaining. What does God tell him NOT to do?

Jeremiah 15:19-21 ESV

Therefore thus says the LORD: “If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD.”

—Jeremiah 15:19-21 ESV

So He’s saying to Jeremiah, who’s complaining, “No, stay with me. Keep going. And I’m going to have you deliver the message to invite them to repent. And be careful that you don’t JOIN them.”

Which is kind of funny—because you could easily say, “You know what? I want you to like me. I don’t want you to keep harming me. So I guess I’ll just agree with you.” He says, “No, don’t fall that way. But whatever they’re doing isn’t going to prevail. I’m going to protect you in the process. So don’t think it’s going to carry you into a place that’s going to harm you. It’s not. I’ll take care of you.”

LESSON 4

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EXAMPLE 12: SOMETIMES IT'S JUST FOR YOU

- **From the following scripture:** Is everything God tells a prophet meant to be spoken out loud to others?

Jeremiah 16:1-2 ESV

The word of the LORD came to me: "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place."

—Jeremiah 16:1-2 ESV

Now, this is kind of cool. He's a prophet speaking what God says, and God says, "Now, at the moment, Jeremiah, this is just for YOU. I have some instructions just for you. And by the way, I'm going to tell you some things that nobody else is going to know about what's going to happen."

So as a prophet, sometimes it's just God saying, "I'm going to give you some insight, some understanding, some instruction just for you." So be careful that you don't always think, "Well, whatever I'm hearing, I've got to go speak it out." Particularly when you're in the process of speaking it out, there'll be moments where, "Hey, it's just you and me. I've just given you some insight here, giving you some understanding."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Not everything God shows you is meant to be spoken out—sometimes it's just for you. How do you discern the difference?

2. God says difficult messages are meant to elicit repentance, not harm. When have you held back a hard truth because you were afraid it wasn't "nice"?

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 13: FOLLOW SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS

- **From the following scripture:** Why doesn't God just tell Jeremiah the message here—why make him go somewhere first?

Jeremiah 18:1-2 ESV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

—Jeremiah 18:1-2 ESV

You always wonder, like, "Well, why don't You just tell me?" "Well, go there first." And part of it, see, is God's training you. Are you willing to follow me? If you can follow me in simple instructions, you'll follow me in more complicated instructions.

So He's constantly teaching: "Go here. Do this. What do you see? Go to the potter's house—there I'll speak the word." And again, the way I would look at it is, "Well, I'm here—why don't You just say it to me now?" "Well, I didn't tell you that. I want you to go over there." "Why?" "I'm not telling you why. Go down there." Okay.

So it's very variable. And be careful you don't develop it into a SYSTEM.

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 14: DREAMS AND FAITHFULNESS

- **From the following scripture:** What role do dreams play in the prophetic—and what should you do with them?

Jeremiah 23:28-29 ESV

Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

—Jeremiah 23:28-29 ESV

He put a couple of things together. He said, “If you have a dream, what’s the dream? It’s significant. It’s part of the prophetic. So if you have a dream, make sure you understand it. Somebody else has a dream—help them interpret it. But basically promote dreams and start to put it in context. And then be faithful to what I’m speaking to you, not what other people would want.”

So prophetic includes dreams and visions and words and understanding. And He says, “I’ll put all of that together and use all of that.” And by the way, dreams are a fantastic way for God to give prophetic words—because interesting enough, people don’t even know it’s prophetic, but they have a dream consciously.

And then people will say, “I had a dream.” And by the way, we encourage people to WRITE THEM DOWN. So when you have a dream, you’ve got to have something by your bed and write it—write it down in great detail.

And then, “What do you think it means?” Most of the time, at first, they have no idea. “Okay, tell me the dream and I’ll interpret it.” Now because of what we know about this—is it because I have any great skill? No. Why? Because God can relate: “Here’s the truth of that.” And I know something: it’s a message, and it’s simple. So you don’t over-complicate it, and you don’t say you’re going to run your life by it. But rather there’s an important message that God is saying. “Father, what is it?”

LESSON 4

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EXAMPLE 15: DIALOGUE AND RELATIONSHIP

- **From the following scripture:** God could have just told Jeremiah what to say. Instead, what does He do?

Jeremiah 24:1-3, 5-7 ESV

After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah... the LORD showed me this vision: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten."

—Jeremiah 24:1-3 ESV

So He says, "Pay attention to this thing." And He says, "What do you see?" Now, again, see the beauty of walking with God. It's a RELATIONSHIP. It's dialogue. It's back and forth. Because God could have just jumped to the end: "Tell him this." Which, by the way, would be our preference—"Just tell me what to say and I'll say it. I'll be faithful."

He says, "Well, part of it is you're in my relationship and I want you to ENJOY it, and I enjoy it. 'Hey, Jeremiah, what do you see?' 'I see this.' 'Oh, well, do you understand about that?' 'Not really.' 'Okay, well, let me help you with that.'"

So there'll be lots of times when He's asking you questions. He's saying, "Did you notice something?" And it could be a common thing—like a fig tree. So it's there. It's always been there. And all of a sudden God says, "Hey, go take a look at that. What do you see there?" And it led him to all—"That's what You're saying." And the understanding was for him because of how God did it. And it was an ENJOYABLE process.

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So in other words, there's NO SYSTEM to it. Be careful. One thing to be careful of: "Well, okay, I'll speak God's word. What do you say? What do you say?" A lot of times He'll say, "Well, what do you see? Hey, did you notice? Did you recognize something here?" And you could be—literally, I could be at a football game and He could say, "Did you see something there?" "Yeah, I did." "Do you recognize what I'm trying to show you?" "Oh, yeah, I do." He'll use all kinds of cool stuff. Common stuff.

EXAMPLE 16: SPEAKING TO A LARGER AUDIENCE

- **From the following scripture:** What's scary about this assignment—and why might God call you to it anyway?

Jeremiah 26:2-3 ESV

Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds.

—Jeremiah 26:2-3 ESV

God may call you to a LARGER audience—because generally our prophetic is going to be one-on-one or one-on-small-group. Once in a while, it could be to a much larger group. "I want you to say something," or "I want you to get to the leader of the church because there's something I want you to say to him which impacts the entire church."

Now that's scary. Primarily, if you're called to do that—why would that be scary? "I'm called to go speak to the church." It feels like a big responsibility. And the church should know more than I know. And likely they're going to do WHAT with what I'm going to tell them? Probably not accept it—because they tend to get in their own lane and don't want to be challenged. But that's what it is. And you've got to be willing to once in a while speak to a larger audience.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It's RELATIONSHIP, not system—God enjoys the dialogue with you. Are you enjoying it back, or just trying to “get the message”?

2. God uses common, everyday things to teach you. What has He been showing you lately that you might have passed by?

EXAMPLE 17: WRITE IT DOWN

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Jeremiah to do with this word—and why?

Jeremiah 30:1-2 ESV

Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

—Jeremiah 30:2 ESV

So again, once in a while, what did He just say to Jeremiah? “Write it down.” This one I want you to write down because you can come back to it. So journaling—a lot of times, just say it. But in this case, it might be to write it out.

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EXAMPLE 18: DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES—GOD DELIVERS

- **From the following scriptures:** Being a prophet got Jeremiah into trouble. What had God promised him from the beginning?

Jeremiah 37:21; 38:17-20; 39:11-12 ESV

So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers' street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

—**Jeremiah 37:21 ESV**

So him being a prophet—like, “Well, this ain’t good. I got led into difficult circumstances. It would have been better if I would have said nothing.” And God said, at the moment, “I know that’s how you feel. But don’t worry. I’ll get you out of this.” That’s why He said—remember, He started with, “I’ll deliver you from this.” Yeah, it may carry you into some difficult places because people are going to be upset with you, or they’re actually going to try to come against you. But don’t let that impact your ability to do what I’m doing—because you’re my messenger.

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you will surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city shall not be burned with fire, and you and your house shall live... Obey now the voice of the LORD in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared.”

—**Jeremiah 38:17, 20 ESV**

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Remember, Jeremiah: “Speak absolute truth.” Because if you surrender, you’ll be spared. If you don’t, you’re all going to die. That’s what He said. “You say that to him”—which I know you’re going to be concerned about.

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, “Take him, look after him well, and do him no harm, but deal with him as he tells you.”

—Jeremiah 39:11-12 ESV

Remember, God said, “I’ll protect you.” And interesting enough—the whole nation is getting captured. Who’s part of that nation? Jeremiah. So he’s kind of speaking his own life here. “I’m part of this too.” He said, “Well, you’ve got the same choice. Are you going to surrender or not? By the way, I’ll take care of you if you have a heart.”

This is the beginning of the REMNANT—where God says, “I’m still going to give you the covenant life. Even though the rest of the nation is being captured, you still can have the covenant life.”

ISAIAH: VISIONS AND CLEANSING

EXAMPLE 19: IT CAN START WITH A VISION

- **From the following scripture:** How does Isaiah describe the beginning of his prophetic ministry?

Isaiah 1:1 ESV

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

—Isaiah 1:1 ESV

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So he starts out and says, “This is a VISION that God gave me.” So it’s not necessarily just words. It could be a vision. It could be a picture. It could be all kinds of things that stimulate you to start the process with God. “What are You saying and what are You up to?”

And He might start it by actually giving you a dream, or giving you a vision, or giving you a picture of something. And all He’s saying is, “Pay attention. I’ll fill in the blanks. Don’t reject it because you think, ‘Well, the prophetic is only words.’ No, it can be more than that.”

EXAMPLE 20: CLEANSED AND SENT

- **From the following scripture:** Isaiah says “Woe is me, I am unclean.” What happens between that moment and “Here am I, send me”?

Isaiah 6:1-8 ESV

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

—Isaiah 6:5-8 ESV

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So Isaiah understood: “Well, because of my sin nature, I don’t think I can be good enough to do this.” And God said, “Actually, you’re correct. However—” and in this case, who cleansed him? The seraphim. GOD did it. “I cleansed you.” He didn’t say, “Go do something.” “Let ME cleanse you.”

We know something because of what we learned about Jesus. What has happened to us? He provided the way of cleansing. “I’ve taken care of this. When you step into the kingdom by surrendering your will—deny self, take up the cross, and follow me—you’re cleansed automatically.” Why? Because He did it at the cross. And you now join Him in His righteousness.

So really, He’s saying, if you’re going to be a spokesman, what do you have to do with yourself? You’ve got to be with Him. You’ve got to step into the kingdom—because you’re automatically cleansed. But to be cleansed, all you’ve got to do is BE WITH HIM. Now you’re cleansed. Okay. Let’s go.

And you’ve got to STAY there. And that’s why He said, “Be careful that you don’t exit out with your own thought, your own word, and now you go out and try to execute it.” And you’ve just left being cleansed. And now you’re back to being sinful. And you’re not going to be able to give it directly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Isaiah said, “Woe is me! I am unclean!” But God cleansed him and THEN said, “Who will go?” What does this tell you about the order of operations for being prophetic?

2. Being a prophet may lead to difficult circumstances—but God promised to deliver. How does that promise change your willingness to speak?

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EXAMPLE 21: SPECIFIC PLACE, SPECIFIC PERSON, SPECIFIC TIMING

- **From the following scripture:** How specific are God's instructions to Isaiah here?

Isaiah 7:3-4 ESV

And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear...'"

—Isaiah 7:3-4 ESV

Now this is cool. What did He tell you, Isaiah? "Go to this place with this specific thing." Here's WHERE I want you to go. It wasn't just "broadcast this." "Go here, specifically here."

So as you're prophetic, it's going to be: "Let me tell you WHERE to go with this. Let me tell you WHAT to do with this." And it has to be specific. Otherwise you're just preaching, broadcasting. And He said, "Well, that's not what I'm asking you to do. There's something specific. There's a person, there's a situation, there's a timing to it. Let me give it to you and deliver it."

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EXAMPLE 22: SOMETIMES DON'T GET FURTHER ENGAGED

- **From the following scripture:** What does God warn Isaiah NOT to do after delivering the message?

Isaiah 8:11 ESV

For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people...

—Isaiah 8:11 ESV

Because again, we could say, “Well, wouldn’t it be a good idea if I spent more time with them and helped them deliver the message and understand the message and all that?” And He actually says, “Actually, no. Don’t you even think about going with them. Just deliver it and get out of there.”

There’s something about this that He wants you to understand—or the assignment is, “I don’t want you to get engaged in that assignment other than just a simple thing.” So oftentimes He’ll say, “No, I don’t want you to spend any more time with them and don’t get involved with them at the moment.”

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EZEKIEL: SPIRITUAL NOT LOGICAL

EXAMPLE 23: SPIRITUAL, NOT LOGICAL

- **From the following scripture:** God is sending Ezekiel to stubborn rebels. What warning does He give about HOW to deliver the message?

Ezekiel 2:1-4 ESV

And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD:'"

—Ezekiel 2:1-4 ESV

So He basically says, "Remember, this is SPIRITUAL, not logical. Don't you figure this out. You don't need to add your own thoughts to this—because it's a spiritual revelation, and you don't even have to make fully sense of it. You just have to be FAITHFUL to it. That's it."

So be careful that you don't try to overdo it and start to explain it because you think, "Well, I need to help them understand this, and I'm going to add my explanation," and you're using your logic to explain something that's spiritual. And God said, "Well, you just negated the whole thing." So remember, keep it spiritual.

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EXAMPLE 24: EAT THE SCROLL—MEDITATE BEFORE DELIVERING

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Ezekiel to do with the scroll before speaking to Israel?

Ezekiel 3:1-2 ESV

And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat.

—Ezekiel 3:1-2 ESV

So the scroll is the word. He’s saying, in this case, “I need you to EAT it and process it.” And He’s using the basically the verbiage of a ruminant. “Chew on this. I’m going to give you a word. But before you deliver it, I actually need you to chew on this a little bit and meditate on it and understand something further before you’re ready to deliver it.”

Now remember, it’s NOT universal. And I want to keep reminding everybody: Do not drift into a SYSTEM—because it’s easy to do. “Okay, I get this word, I’ve got to meditate on it.” No. “I get this word, I’ve got to go speak it now.” “I’ve got to fully understand this.” No.

Just learn how beautiful it is—because it’s about RELATIONSHIP. Who are you with? God. He loves being with you. He’s using you to be a messenger. You’re His physical representative of the invisible God. There’s no system to it. It’s going to be all over the place.

And the one thing He wants you to do is say, “Are you ENJOYING being a prophet?” Now, by the way, fundamentally, the answer should always be yes. There may be some times where I’m not enjoying the message I’m giving, but I AM enjoying being a prophet. Why could you say, “I’m enjoying being a prophet”? Because you’re in relationship. You’re in constant communication back and forth. And you’re part of His plan. You can see it being worked out. Experiencing Him all along. And you’re seeing other people experiencing Him.

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And the one thing is to rejoice. Because what? You're hearing His voice, and He's using you to deliver what He's trying to say, and He's interacting with you to say, "I didn't choose you because of your skill. I chose you because you have a heart to hear and give it away." And that's why everybody's called to be a prophet. That's all you've got to have—a heart to receive it and give it away. And if you're receiving it, you will hear His voice.

He says, "Well, you ought to just rejoice about that alone. Enjoy it and have fun with it."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God tells Ezekiel this is SPIRITUAL, not logical—don't add your own explanation. When have you negated a spiritual message by over-explaining it?

2. Are you ENJOYING being prophetic—the relationship, the dialogue, the adventure? If not, what's getting in the way?

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EXAMPLE 25: THE WATCHMAN—IF YOU DON'T SPEAK, BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS

- **From the following scripture:** What happens if God tells you to warn someone and you refuse? What if you warn them and they refuse?

Ezekiel 3:17-21 ESV

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

—Ezekiel 3:17-19 ESV

So He said, "Now, as a prophet, I do want you to understand something. If I say to you to say it, what are you supposed to do? SAY IT."

And He said, "The burden of receiving it is on THEM completely. You have no care about the response. Just be faithful to speak it, and it should elicit a response. And they'll either receive it or they'll reject it. That's not your problem."

But He's doing it purposely to give them the choice to receive it or reject it. And think of the character of God. This is what grace and love is all about: "I'm always saying, 'How about NOW? Would you like to come now? Could you choose to come now? Let me help you come now.'" And ideally they say yes. Great, let's go. If they say no—well, okay. How about NOW? See? He's always inviting them to receive the truth.

"You be faithful." Now, He says, "If I tell you to say something and you REFUSE to say it, the burden is on YOU. It's back on you—because you have just rejected ME. I've chosen you because of your heart. And your heart got hard and said, 'I don't want to do this.' Now the burden is on you, and you've fallen into the rebellion"—which, by the way, has consequences.

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So He said, “If I were you, I wouldn’t do that. Be faithful and enjoy being faithful.”

Question from the group: “Blood is on your hands—you basically killed them because you didn’t speak to them.”

Okay, now think about the significance of that. What is God saying to Ezekiel? “You’re my messenger. And this is a good thing to say right here. Now think of the people you’re speaking to. There are people around you, and you need to understand something: God says **YOU’RE THE ONLY ONE STANDING** that can speak it.”

They have people around them. They may even have church people around them. But nobody else knows how to hear His voice. “I can’t tell them what to say—they don’t even know what I’m saying. You’re the only one standing next to them that I can use to get the message to them. And the message is **ETERNAL** for them. It’s significant.”

Now, what God says is: “Don’t be afraid of it. Consider the **PRIVILEGE** of that I’ve given you. And why are you privileged? You can hear my voice. And you know the truth—and more and more truth.” Like, for example, when you learn the covenant, the truth of the covenant, and you know it and you live it and you receive it—what can you say to somebody else? “Covenant.” Do they know the covenant? Do most of your people in the church know the covenant? No. But **YOU** know it. “I’m using you to deliver the message. Why? Because you know it. And you can hear my voice. It’s a privilege.” So keep receiving that beautiful privilege.

EXAMPLE 26: OBJECT LESSONS

- **From the following scripture:** What unusual tool does God use to communicate His message here?

Ezekiel 4:1 ESV

“And you, son of man, take a brick and lay it before you, and engrave on it a city, even Jerusalem.”

—Ezekiel 4:1 ESV

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"I'm going to use an object lesson. Do this and understand this." So pictures, objects, things—keep remembering that He can do all this stuff. And don't reject it because it's not a specific word. It's a process.

Don't limit Him. And see, He'll tell you, "Pay attention." And we typically won't—because either we're so busy or it doesn't make sense, we just pass it up. And He's trying to say, "Get a brick and do this." It's like, okay—I'll pay attention to that. "Because I'm doing something. I'm showing you something. I'm revealing something." And I think the variety is what spices it up. It really makes it fun—because it's not a system. It's not a one-way deal. It's fun.

EXAMPLE 27: EMOTION IS OKAY

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Ezekiel to DO physically as he delivers this message?

Ezekiel 6:11 ESV

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Clap your hands and stamp your foot and say, Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence."

—Ezekiel 6:11 ESV

When I read this one, I just kind of laughed at it. He says, "Yeah, go ahead and throw a fit. Act like a little kid." And why? "Because this is awful. You know what? I want you to FEEL how awful this is. Go ahead. Get some energy to this. Get some emotion to this. That's okay."

And God will again invite you to experience things and to—don't say, "Well, I shouldn't do that because that's kind of emotional, or I get upset about this, or I'm not happy about this." He said, "Good, good. Throw a fit. Now, by the way, don't stay there. But let's go."

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EXAMPLE 28: ANY TIME, ANY PLACE

- **From the following scripture:** When and where did God speak to Ezekiel in this instance?

Ezekiel 8:1 ESV

In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.

—Ezekiel 8:1 ESV

So now, in all the other things, He didn't really describe "on this particular day at this particular time." But God says—what He's trying to say is—this can be very, very specific. ANY TIME that He says something. It wasn't when I was praying. It wasn't when I was at church. It wasn't when I was in a group. It was—I was just here, and God spoke.

Any time, any place, anywhere—He can do this. And you can enjoy it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You may be the ONLY ONE standing next to someone who can hear God's voice for them. Who might that be in your life right now?

2. Is there something God has shown you that you've been afraid to speak? What would it take to be faithful?

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CONCLUSION: THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A PROPHET

What did going through these examples do for you? It's so encouraging to be able to see the different ways that He might speak and then see how God works with you when you may not do it right—or you do it perfect—whatever it is. It's really fun.

I think it made these prophets—these particular ones we looked at—more HUMAN. More real. More like us. They just kind of went a step at a time with God. And they didn't know it all up front. They just walked with Him.

And if we look at all these characters, interesting enough, they really weren't special people, per se. They weren't super religious. They even weren't priests. They were just AVERAGE GUYS like us that God said, "You can hear my voice and you're willing to be faithful. So let's learn this." And He would correct them and help them understand it.

So as you go through the examples, it really cements the things that we taught about the beauty of being a prophet. God says we're ALL called to be that. He says:

- "I'm going to speak to you."
- "I'm going to have you experience the supernatural life, the grand, fantastic, abundant life—the covenant."
- "You are going to BECOME the covenant."
- "I'm going to use you to be my representative to the world, to those around you."
- "It's going to be not a system, but a RELATIONSHIP."
- "It'll be all the time."
- "I need you—because you're the only one standing there to be able to do this."
- "And by the way, when somebody does that with you, receive it and process it, test it, confirm it."

And what He really says is: IT'S A PRIVILEGE. And I want us to ENJOY that privilege.

And think about the only way we wouldn't enjoy it is—why? We don't do it. We just get so... we don't think we're good enough. "I can't speak to that. I'm afraid to speak to that." And He says, "No—why don't you just let's get going? Don't see your youth. You're capable. Why? Because I'M capable. Come. Come and enjoy this."

So this course is such a profound thing—that all of us, interesting enough, are called to do this. Why? We're supposed to assist each other to do WHAT? Bring everybody to the life of God. And what a privilege is that?

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And by the way, if we're doing that, it's kind of cool. It means WHAT to us? If we're doing that for others, what does that mean for us? We're living it out. And we get the privilege of that automatically.

So I encourage you to really process through, to practice it. And even if you've got a small group and you've got things going on—the more and more groups that can do this, the life of the church is going to EXPLODE, and people are going to learn what it means to walk with God. And we will have the privilege of being part of that.

What from these examples most encouraged you about being prophetic?

What's one thing you're going to start doing differently based on what you learned?

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SESSION 4 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. What did Jeremiah learn from the loincloth exercise (Jeremiah 13)? Why did God use an object lesson instead of just telling him directly?

2. According to Ezekiel 3:17-21, what happens if you hear a word from God and refuse to speak it? What happens if you speak it and they reject it?

3. How did Isaiah move from “Woe is me, I am unclean” to “Here am I, send me”? What happened in between?

For Deeper Understanding

1. The prophets weren’t “special” or “super religious”—they were average people willing to be faithful. How does that change your view of who can be prophetic?

2. God said to Jeremiah, “They won’t listen, but say it anyway.” What does this reveal about God’s heart and the value of being His messenger?

3. “Don’t develop a system”—God interacts with each prophet differently, using words, visions, dreams, object lessons, and more. Why is RELATIONSHIP better than a system?

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For Personal Application

1. You may be the ONLY ONE standing next to someone who can hear God's voice for them. Who might that be in your life right now?

2. Is there something God has shown you that you've been afraid to speak? What would it take to be faithful?

3. Are you ENJOYING being prophetic—the relationship, the dialogue, the adventure? If not, what's getting in the way?



History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.

Mission

1. Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
2. Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
3. God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
4. Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
5. God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
6. Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
7. Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
8. Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

"If I'm not abiding, I feel like I'm dying. Abiding is living...It's powerful to know that you have God's perspective on something."



Steve

"This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God's living Word. And I've been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that."



Dan

"It doesn't matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you've been a 20+ year believer like I have, learning how to hear God's voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God's will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly."



Bob

"Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I've ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it's just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He's showing it to us."



Heath

"Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn't even happen. Now, it's become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me."



Rebecca

"I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we're there, we have peace beyond understanding."



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

Have you experienced abundant blessing from your time with Abide Ministries?

Pay it forward by donating at abideministries.com/donate and help us support others in learning how to seek Christ and abide in Him! We appreciate your desire to help us share the Abundant Life with the rest of the world.



Learn More at abideministries.com

Podcast

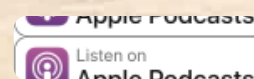
Escape the chaos and uncertainty of the world with our podcast, ***“Come and See, Finding Truth in a World of Chaos,”*** available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify.



CHANNEL



PLAYLIST PAGE



Tune in five days a week as our hosts, Rich Case and Kathy Rocconi, dive into the scriptures and discuss what it looks like to live an abiding life with Christ. Join us as we seek God's truth in a world of turmoil and darkness.

Online Courses



Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

Each course has an accompanying workbook. Join us as we learn about biblical topics like Hearing God's Voice, Discerning God's Will, the Covenant, Living in Forgiveness, Living in the Kingdom of God, Living in the Supernatural, Christ, Clutter and the Calendar, Living the Grand Life, and many, many more.



COURSES

Abide Retreats



Learn more at
abideministries.com

Do you have friends or a small group that you would like to experience what you just experienced?

Would you be interested in attending another retreat, which we call electives to go deeper in your walk with God?

See the various options on our website.
The topics for retreats and courses are the same.

RETREATS



COURSES



STORE

