



PROPHETIC PRACTICALS

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A 3 day devotional walking through the practicals of prophesy.

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 14:1– 39

V 1 “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy”.

V 5 “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy.”

Paul exhorts the believers in Corinth to eagerly desire the spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy as it edifies and builds up the Church. In the life of a believer it strengthens, encourages, and comforts.

So then, while we are not all prophets, every person needs to be open and available to prophesy and in this way the Church is built up and strengthened.

Prophecy is more than individuals prophesying. It is the Holy Spirit revealing God's plans and secrets, His heart or will for a situation or a person. It is God speaking to us! New Testament normality then, is to be ready and willing to strengthen, encourage, and comfort - which is to prophesy - as individuals.

This Bible Study over the next three days, is about some of the Practical's around how we can effectively **RECEIVE** the Prophetic Word into our lives so that we can grow up into the fullness of Jesus Christ and walk in all He has destined for us.

You will learn the different aspects there are to the prophetic, how to test or judge the prophetic word, and how to apply

timing to our prophetic words – whether it is a now word, a confirming word or a word for the future.

As you apply yourself to this Study ask the Holy Spirit for revelation so you can understand the ways of God and allow Him to take you further in your Study of the Scripture.

Enjoy!

Maureen Le Roux

DAY 1

DIFFERENT ASPECTS TO THE PROPHETIC WORD

Prophecy is simply an invitation for us to step into our Destiny! It is God revealing to us the plans He has for us and how we are to get there!



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1Thessalonians 5:19-21 AMP Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit; Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning]. But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast

We can miss what God is saying or respond to the word incorrectly when we fail to understand the three aspects there are to the Prophetic word.

Prophetic words in our lives are:

PARTIAL

God never gives us the full picture at once...they are pieces of a puzzle...as we respond to each piece given to us so we move forward and the next piece becomes clear.

PROGRESSIVE

God reveals His plan to us progressively , moving us forward into His plan steadily in stages, one step at a time.

CONDITIONAL

God has His plan for our lives and requires a response from us to make it happen. For example if you receive a word

that you have the gift of teaching and God wants you to track the word, it will not happen unless you make plans in your life to move into that direction.



RESPOND TO THE PROPHETIC WORD

We cannot put prophetic words on the shelf and forget about them... there needs to be a response from us when God speaks into our lives:

PREPARE

Prepare ourselves as He reveals His plans and purposes for our lives.

ADJUST

Make the adjustments to those things He highlights that are obstacles to His plans.

OBEY

Walk in obedience to steps He reveals for us to walk in.

1Thessalonians 5:19-21 AMP Do not quench (suppress or subdue) the [Holy] Spirit; Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning]. But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast



WHAT TO DO WITH A WORD THAT YOU BELIEVE IS NOT FROM GOD

Prophetic words may be wrong (or may contain wrong components). This does not make the person who brought it a false prophet, but just a prophetic person who has made a mistake.

If the word has left you feeling heavy or manipulated in any way, then ask someone to pray with you to cut off its influence.

If the word has made your feel confused and it has no relevance to anything in your life at that moment, then release it. If it is a word of God, then God will bring it back again through someone else.

Give the person who shared the word with you some loving honest feedback. They should be willing to speak with you to resolve any misunderstandings, and to apologise if the word was wrong.



MAKING IT REAL

1. **Prophetic Words in our lives are Conditional.**

Look at the prophetic word or words you have received from God in this past year. Write down the response required from you in each of the prophetic words.

2. **Read 1Thessalonians 5:19-21 in other versions.**

The YouVersion Bible App is a great resource to have.

The Christian Standard Bible (CSB) says in v 19 *Don't stifle the Spirit*. What do you think this means? Take some time with the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show you if you stifle the Spirit, especially in the area of the Gifts operating in your life.

In the ESV version v19 uses the word "quench" and in other versions it says "Don't put out the Holy Spirit's fire".

The Spirit is here considered as a flame which may be extinguished and may be a reference to the Holy Spirit appearing like tongues of fire on the Day of Pentecost. Consider for a moment that the Holy Spirit within you is like a fire. How can you quench or put Him out in your life and how can you stir up the gift within you according to *2Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

3. **What steps of Obedience is required from you** in response to the Word you have received and in response to your understanding of this Scripture in *1 Thessalonians*.

4. **Write down a prophetic word** you believe is on God's heart at this moment, without thinking of a specific person. The next person who contacts you, via text or a phone call, give the prophetic word to them.



NOTES

DAY 2

HOW TO WEIGH OR JUDGE THE PROPHETIC WORD



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We should not accept the words of any person, gifted or not, without careful discernment and personal knowledge of God's word; otherwise, we can easily be led astray by what we want to hear.

That is why we are told in *1 Thessalonians 5:21* to test everything. This Scripture is in the context of prophecy and not despising it.

The New American Standard puts it like this "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good."

In teaching the church in Corinth on orderly worship and how to administrate the gifts during their worship times he says,

1Corinthians 14:29 (ESV) Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh (KJV judge) what is said.

The word "weigh" is *diakrinō*, which means to differentiate, sift, distinguish between. There is a definite warning for us to discern and carefully differentiate or sift the prophetic word given to us, whether it is from God and is what God is saying to us in that moment.

This is especially true of directional, correctional or words that confuse us.



THE BIBLE GIVES US SOME BASIC KEYS OR FILTERS THROUGH WHICH EVERY PROPHETIC WORD SHOULD BE JUDGED.

1. Validated with Scripture.

It needs to agree with the Word of God and/or the Heart of God as revealed through the Scriptures

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Psalms 119:105 (ESV) "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

2. The Witness of the Spirit

There will be an agreement or a rejection in our inner man towards the prophetic word spoken.

Romans 8 : 16 – 17 (ESV) "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs —heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

Hebrews 10 : 15 – 16 (ESV) "And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will

make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds."

3. Discerning the Voice of God from the many voices

There are many voices that vie for our attention. Hearing God is learning to discern which is which. As we get to know God it is from a place of an intimate relationship that we learn to distinguish between His voice, the voice of our conscience and reasoning, the voice of our flesh (our fallen human nature) and even the voice of the devil.

God's Voice will always be encouraging, comforting and building up even when He is correcting something in our lives. God's Voice is the only one that can "pierce our hearts".

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV) But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

4. Released through a recognisable Prophetic Gift and Gifts of the Holy Spirit like the Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom

The purpose of prophecy (the gifts of the Spirit) is not so much directional as it is to build up and encourage us. This helps you to discern when prophecy really is from God. If it breaks down, judges, exposes or gives direction, speak to your leaders and ask them to help you judge if the word is from God. If someone always brings critical prophecies, or

directional prophecies, they may be practicing the gift incorrectly.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV) "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good."

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV) "But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort."

5. Godly Counsel

Our leaders are not there to hear God for us but are there to help us hear God. If you are unsure if the word you received is from God or not, then speak to your leaders to help you weigh the prophetic word.

Proverbs 11:14 (ESV) "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counsellors there is safety."

6. The Peace of God

Colossians 3:15 (ESV) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Peace is a state of tranquility or quietness of spirit that transcends circumstances or understanding.

7. **Circumstances/Timing**

Circumstances and timing can play a part. Although, we do not allow circumstances to hinder what God wants us to do, we should consider strongly whether God is telling us to, for example, start a business or have a baby or step into a leadership position when our family is in disarray or our finances are not in the best of places.

Acts 18:1-3 Paul meeting Priscilla & Aquila

Acts 16:11-15 Lydia – church in Philippi

8. **Confirmation**

Many times the prophetic word coming to us will simply confirm what God has already said to us - either personally from His Scriptures or through a previous prophetic word.

Many times God will confirm His plans and purposes to us through three or more of these ways – especially when it involves the 3 D's: Direction, Decision, Destiny



MAKING IT REAL

1. **List the voices** in your life at this time in your life. For example, a parent, teacher, spouse, TV, podcasts. In other words, what are you listening to and allowing through your ear gate?

Next to each one mark out of 5 which is the loudest ie. How much time are you giving it in your life. 5 being the loudest – the most time and 1 being not loud – not so much time.

For example if I listen to podcasts or YouTube videos of various teachings and preaches every day, sometimes twice a day, that would score 5. If I watch TV programs every evening for at least 3 to 4 hours that would score 5.

2. **How much time are you spending in the Word of God and in prayer** - communion with God in intimacy? If the other “voices” are louder, then take a moment to repent and make the adjustments in your life.

Each of us needs to be hearing directly from God for our lives and not so much through what others are saying.

3. Read both these Scriptures in *Acts 18:1-3* and *Acts 16:11-15* and write down in your own words how circumstances affected the spread of the Gospel in those

regions. Is God speaking to you through your circumstances in this time? Write down what He is saying.

4. **Read *Psalm 37:3-7*** and write out a prophetic word to yourself from those verses.



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DAY 3

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMING OF PROPHETIC WORDS

This is one of the most challenging aspects of receiving a prophetic word. When will the word happen?

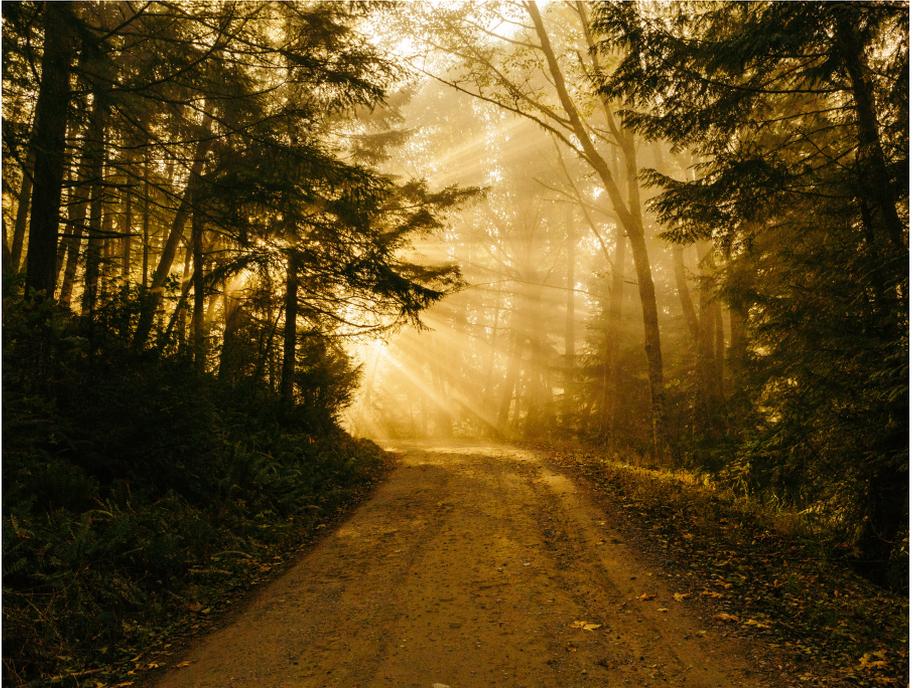


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Every one of us is in a different season of our lives and on a different timeline and when God gives us a prophecy, or a dream or vision there is a timing associated with it.

We need to remember the following:

1. The fulfilment of some prophetic words is dependent on our obedience. If we are disobedient, we can delay the word coming to pass in God's timing.
2. Demonic assignments can also delay or stop the fulfilment of a prophetic word.
3. We only see in part. "For we know in part and we prophesy in part" (1 Corinthians 13:9).
4. Sometimes prophetic words are wrong. On Day 1 of this study, we looked at what to do if a prophecy is wrong. We should be cautious about overreacting if a prophecy seems wrong.

Isaiah 55:10, 11 (NIV) As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.



IS IT A NOW WORD?

This is a prophetic word that speaks into our current situation, or where we are currently in life or ministry or career.

It may refer to our past but has implications for the present.

It may show us how we are to change to be able to step into what God has for us at this moment in our life.

If we are slow to respond or do not respond at all to the **NOW** word, we may go around the mountain again and the purposes of God in our lives are put on hold.

IS IT A CONFIRMING WORD?

A Confirming word will strengthen us in what we have already received from the Lord.

It can allow a resurrection of neglected gifts or words that God has spoken to us in the past that we are not walking in or have become lazy in.

The Confirming word comes again to reveal to us God's original intent and stimulates us to rise up and walk in God's plan.

A Confirming word can bring renewed strength and joy to those who have got tired in the work God has for them, for them to continue in it.

It can also encourage us that we are on the right track in doing what God has destined for us – we are doing the works HE has prepared in advance for us to do. (*Ephesians 2:10*).

IS IT A FUTURE WORD?

A Future word will speak about the next season, phase or stage in our life.

It will give us context and meaning to what we are going through now and what we are to encounter next.

It will help us to stay on course as it will tie in effectively with our present and have a sense of “fitting”.

IS IT A NEW WORD?

It is different from a future word in that a new word may have little or no link to the present.

It can also be a word that takes us by surprise when it is so far off into the future that it can be difficult for us to even comprehend it.

It will result in us into seeking the Lord, moving us into a season of training and preparation.

It can shape our lives and stir us into a direction we would not otherwise have thought of.

It is important we share these words with our leaders to confirm the word and allow them to help us shape our lives in that direction.

GOD'S DELAYS ARE NOT GOD'S DENIALS

There are times when God delays the Word in our lives through reasons He alone knows.

Isaiah 55:8,9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

In moments like these we need to simply **TRUST** God!



MAKING IT REAL

1. **Have you received a word** that you have not yet seen come to pass? Look at that word again and see if it is a timing issue or if there is an act of obedience or something you need to adjust in your life to see this word come to pass? Eg. If the word is that you will teach the word, then you need to study to show yourself approved and get teachings together.

2. **Spend some time in Worship** and coming before the Lord with your prophetic words, with thanksgiving and declaration, reminding God of His Words spoken over you.

1Timothy 1:18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

3. **Reach out** to a person or persons who have given you a prophetic word in the past and share with them how it has come to pass in your life and what you are walking in as a result of their word in your life. Encourage them with prophetic word.



NOTES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Maureen Le Roux

Maureen Le Roux is an international speaker and teacher of the Word of God, equipping and mobilising the Body of Christ in various aspects of leadership, life and ministry for the fulfilment of the work of the Kingdom and the discipling of the nations.

Maureen is married to Kenneth Le Roux and since the early 1990's, they have been on the New Covenant Ministries International (NCMI) trans-local, Ephesians 4:11 gifts (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers) ministry team, that is comprised of men and women who, through partnership with the Team, help leaders build their local churches in their areas.

Maureen draws on 33 years of ministry experience and together with Kenny, has led 2 churches, raising and releasing leaders to church plant as well as actively being involved in apostolic ministry and training in the gifts, especially the prophetic ministry. Her love for Jesus Christ and His people and her desire to see them walk in all that God has called them to, is the contributing motive behind all that Maureen does. Maureen is a dynamic contributor at Women of Reverence.

Currently, Maureen and her husband are based in a church in Johannesburg, Gauteng and travel extensively to Canada, Australia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia and Botswana, actively working in partnership with churches in these Nations as well as various churches in South Africa.