

Message Two

The Practice of Prophesying for the Building Up of the Church as an Exceedingly Great Army

Scripture Reading: Ezek. 37:4-10; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Acts 5:20; 6:4

- Ezek 37:4 Then He said to me, Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of Jehovah.
- Ezek 37:5 Thus says the Lord Jehovah to these bones: I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.
- Ezek 37:6 And I will put sinews on you and bring flesh back on you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you will know that I am Jehovah.
- Ezek 37:7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- Ezek 37:8 And I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh came back, and skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.
- Ezek 37:9 Then He said to me, Prophesy to the wind; prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus says the Lord Jehovah, Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.
- Ezek 37:10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them; and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- 1 Cor 14:4b ... but he who prophesies builds up the church.
- Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.
- Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

I. Prophesying (speaking for the Lord and speaking forth the Lord into one another) in the meetings of the church fulfills the greatest prophecy in the Bible, which is to build up the church (in oneness as an exceedingly great army)—Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 14:4b; Ezek. 37:4-10.

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II. We need to live a prophesying life by loving the Lord to the uttermost:

- A. The more we love the Lord, the more we are qualified, perfected, and equipped to speak for

the Lord.

- B. Our love for the Lord is the factor, the element, and the very basic essence of our having the authority and impact and of our being powerful in our speaking for the Lord (Peace Wang is an example of this—see *Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ*, pp. 33-34).

"*Speaking Christ for the Building Up of the Body of Christ*", pp. 33-34

LOVING THE LORD

For the God-ordained way, the biblical way, the new way, we all need, first of all, to love the Lord. In John 21 the Lord asked Peter if he loved Him. Peter told the Lord, "You know that I love You." Then the Lord answered, "Feed My lambs," and "Feed My sheep" (vv. 15, 17). To speak is not only to edify or to teach but also to feed the lambs and to feed the sheep. If we are going to feed the Lord's sheep, we have to speak. Without speaking, how could we feed any Christian? For us to feed the Lord's sheep, we must love Him. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, I love You, so I like to speak You forth to others." The more that we love Him, the more we are qualified, equipped, and even perfected to speak.

According to the Scriptures, the sisters are weaker vessels according to their nature by birth (1 Pet. 3:7). This is according to God's creation. But as long as the sisters love Him, they will speak. I was born in Christianity, and I was raised there for nineteen years without receiving the Lord as my Savior. But one day a young lady came to my hometown. I was nineteen years old, and she was twenty-five. That was over sixty years ago in conservative mainland China. For a young lady to speak to a thousand people was a very unique and unusual event. Although I had been to Christian meetings quite often, I went to this meeting full of curiosity to see this young lady speak. In my whole life, even up to today, I never heard a person speaking with that much authority. She was a young girl standing on the platform in a meeting place that was filled with about one thousand people. As I listened to her, all my curiosity was taken away. Every word that she spoke caught me, and I was fully convinced. I was a young man raised up in Christianity, but that day I was convinced and caught by the Lord. After the meeting as I was walking home, I prayed and gave my entire life to the Lord.

That young lady, who was only twenty-five years old, loved the Lord to the uttermost. That was her motive. Her love for the Lord was the factor, the element, and the very basic essence of her being powerful. The message she released was from the book of Exodus. She told the audience that Egypt typified the world and that all the worldly people were under the tyranny of Satan just as the children of Israel were under the tyranny of Pharaoh. She said that we had to be delivered out of this tyranny and that this was our exodus. When I heard this near the beginning of her message, I said to myself that I would not be under Satan's tyranny any more. Because this young sister loved the Lord to the uttermost, she had the Lord's authority, and the impact was in her gospel preaching.

- C. If we love the Lord, we will be filled with Him; whatever fills us within will come out of us; the overflow comes from the infilling—John 7:37-39; Rev. 2:4-5; cf. Mal. 3:14 and footnote.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.

- Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.
- Mal 3:14 You say, It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge and have walked mournfully before Jehovah of hosts?
- Footnote 1 This word indicates that the children of Israel worshipped and served God, but they did it mournfully, not at all happy that they were required to do these things.

D. When we love the Lord to the uttermost, we must speak; we must release the One who has filled us within—1 Cor. 2:9-10.

1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Cor 2:10 But to us God has revealed them through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

III. By taking the way of PSRP (pray-reading, studying, reciting, and prophesying), we will be able to nourish people with the unsearchable riches of Christ:

A. Pray-reading is a very important part of PSRP; we study the Bible by pray-reading the Bible.

B. Prophesying requires a lot of prayer—Acts 6:4; cf. Heb. 7:25; 8:2:

Acts 6:4 But we will continue steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the word.

Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

Heb 8:2 A Minister of the holy places, even of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

1. To pray is not only to entreat the Lord to do things for His move but also to cause our spirit to be exercised and strengthened.

2. Hence, prayer should precede the ministry of the word, just as the apostles practiced; without such prayer the ministry of the word will not be enlivened and empowered—cf. John 7:37-39; 2 Cor. 2:17; 13:3; 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.

John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.

2 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.

2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

3. "This is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:14-15; cf. Matt. 7:7); these

verses are an encouragement to pray back to the Lord the things that are according to His will in the Bible, His testament, His covenant.

1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Matt 7:7 Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.

IV. The opening and closing words of the prophesying meetings are very important:

- A. Both the opening and closing words should be approximately five to eight minutes long.
- B. The opening word ensures that the meeting starts in a strong way with a definite direction and burden from the Lord.
- C. The closing word ensures that the meeting does not end in emptiness and that the meeting concludes with the fullness of the supply of reality, so that the saints are filled with the pleasantness of the Lord's presence and the satisfaction of the Lord's words of spirit and life (John 6:63); never let a meeting end in emptiness and without the supply of reality.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

- D. We must compose our prophecy with the main points and the subpoints—cf. Deut. 17:18-20 (see footnote 1 on verse 18).

Deut 17:18 And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write out for himself a copy of this law in a book, out of that which is before the Levitical priests.

Footnote 1 The law here refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, which were written by Moses. In ruling over the people, the king first had to be instructed, governed, ruled, and controlled by the word of God. The principle should be the same with the elders in the churches. In order to administrate, to manage, the church, the elders must be reconstituted with the holy word of God (1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17). As a result, they will be under God's government, under God's rule and control. Then spontaneously God will be in their decisions, and the elders will represent God to manage the affairs of the church. This kind of management is theocracy (see note 181 in ch. 16).

Deut 17:19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, in order that he may learn to fear Jehovah his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes and doing them,

Deut 17:20 So that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers and he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or to the left; that he and his sons may extend their days over their kingdom in the midst of Israel.

- E. What the Lord is mainly concerned with in the prophesying meeting is not the quantity of saints who share but the quality of what they share—Rev. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:12.

Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

1 Cor 3:12 But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, grass, stubble,

- F. On the day of the prophesying meeting, we should prepare our being for the meeting (focusing on what we will prophesy) and not be distracted by other things, even spiritual things.

V. We must see the three constituting elements of prophesying—cf. Acts 5:20; 1 Tim. 4:6-7; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; 1 John 1:3; Acts 4:20; 22:15:

- Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.
1 Tim 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.
1 Tim 4:7 But the profane and old-womanish myths refuse, and exercise yourself unto godliness.
1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
Acts 4:20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
Acts 22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

- A. We must possess knowledge of the Word of God—the human element of learning.
B. We must have the instant inspiration of the Holy Spirit—the divine element of inspiration.
C. We must have a vision concerning God’s interest and economy, concerning the church as the Body of Christ, concerning the local churches, concerning the world, concerning the individual saints, and even concerning ourselves—the view through the enlightening of the divine light:

1. In beseeching the saints to walk worthily of God’s calling, Paul spoke from his status as a prisoner of Christ Jesus and a prisoner in the Lord—Eph. 3:1; 4:1.

Eph 3:1 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you, the Gentiles-
Eph 4:1 I beseech you therefore, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,

2. Sooner or later, every steward of God, every minister of God’s riches, every faithful lover of Christ, will be imprisoned not only by Christ but also in Christ; the more we love Him, the more we will be in Him to such an extent that He will become our prison for us to enjoy Him to the uttermost so that we may have a walk that is worthy of God’s calling.

3. The more freedom we have, the more blind we are, but if Christ is our prison, our eyes will be opened to see the heavenly vision, and we will receive the highest revelation of God’s economy—3:9; Acts 26:19.

Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

VI. We must learn and be perfected to organically prophesy (to speak the Lord into others) with the constituting elements of prophesying for the building up of the church as the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 14:4b:

1 Cor 14:4b ... but he who prophesies builds up the church.

- A. We need to redeem our time and spend our energy to be saturated and soaked with the holy Word to be equipped to prophesy—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ezek. 3:1-4:

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

- 2 Tim 3:17 That the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.
- Ezek 3:1 Then He said to me, Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
- Ezek 3:2 So I opened my mouth, and He gave me that scroll to eat.
- Ezek 3:3 And He said to me, Son of man, feed your stomach and fill your inward parts with this scroll that I am giving you. And I ate it, and it was like honey in my mouth in its sweetness.
- Ezek 3:4 Then He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them.

1. We need to be revived by the Lord every morning by enjoying Him in a portion of the Word:

a. The Lord's lovingkindness and compassions are new every morning—Lam. 3:22-23.

- Lam 3:22 It is Jehovah's lovingkindness that we are not consumed, / For His compassions do not fail;
- Lam 3:23 They are new every morning; / Great is Your faithfulness.

b. The path of the righteous is like the rising sun—Prov. 4:18; Judg. 5:31; Luke 1:78-79; Mal. 4:2.

- Prov 4:18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, / Which shines brighter and brighter until the full day.
- Judg 5:31 May all Your enemies so perish, O Jehovah. / But may those who love Him be like the sun / When it rises in its might. And the land had rest forty years.
- Luke 1:78 Because of the merciful compassions of our God, in which the rising sun will visit us from on high,
- Luke 1:79 To shine upon those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- Mal 4:2 But unto you who fear My name will the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, and you will go forth and leap about like well-fed calves.

c. Our inner man is being renewed day by day—2 Cor. 4:16-18.

- 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart; but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,
- 2 Cor 4:18 Because we do not regard the things which are seen but the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

d. We should anticipate the dawning of the morning with our hope in God's Word, that we might muse upon His word, that is, that we might receive His word with much reconsideration—Psa. 119:15, 147-148; cf. Lev. 11:3 (see footnote 1 on Psa. 119:15).

- Psa 119:15 I will muse upon Your precepts / And regard Your ways.
- Footnote 1 Rich in meaning, the Hebrew word for muse (often translated meditate in the KJV) implies to worship, to converse with oneself, and to speak aloud. To muse on the word is to taste and enjoy it through careful considering. Prayer, speaking to oneself, and praising the Lord may also be included in musing on the word. To muse on the word of God is to enjoy His word as His breath (2 Tim. 3:16) and thus to be infused with God, to breathe God in, and to receive spiritual nourishment.
- Psa 119:147 I anticipated the dawn and cried out; / I hoped in Your words.
- Psa 119:148 My eyes anticipated the night watches, / That I might muse upon Your word.

Lev 11:3 Whatever has a divided hoof, that is, has its hoof split in two, and chews the cud among the beasts, that you may eat.

e. We should find God's words and eat them for them to become the gladness and joy of our heart—Jer. 15:16.

Jer 15:16 Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart, / For I am called by Your name, / O Jehovah, God of hosts.

2. We must study the Word by using the best help to open it, expound it, and release its unsearchable riches—the Life-study messages, the books of the ministry, and the Recovery Version footnotes—Luke 24:27, 31-32, 44-45; Acts 8:30-35.

Luke 24:27 And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He disappeared from them.

Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, Was not our heart burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was opening to us the Scriptures?

Luke 24:44 And He said to them, These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and Psalms concerning Me must be fulfilled.

Luke 24:45 Then He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures;

Acts 8:30 And when Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, Do you really know the things that you are reading?

Acts 8:31 And he said, How could I unless someone guides me? And he entreated Philip to come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "As a sheep He was led to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so He does not open His mouth.

Acts 8:33 In His humiliation His judgment was taken away. Who shall declare His generation? For His life is taken away from the earth."

Acts 8:34 And the eunuch answered Philip and said, I beseech you, Concerning whom does the prophet say this? Concerning himself or concerning someone else?

Acts 8:35 And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he announced Jesus as the gospel to him.

3. We must read the Bible ("all Scripture is...profitable" and man shall "live...on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God") regularly from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 (2 Tim. 3:16; Matt. 4:4).

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

4. We must write down daily the spiritual enlightenment, inspiration, and enjoyment received from the Lord in His Word and at the end of the week put these points together to compose a prophecy of no longer than three minutes to speak in the church meeting.

5. The knowledge of the Word becomes the constant element for our prophesying.

B. We must be ready in the spirit to receive the instant inspiration of the Spirit:

1. The spirits of the prophets are the most preeminent part of their being—1 Cor. 14:32, 37a.

1 Cor 14:32 And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

- 1 Cor 14:37a If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, ...
2. Whenever we speak for the Lord, we must exercise our spirit to speak with the Spirit and with Christ as all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge—Acts 7:10; Isa. 11:2; 2 Chron. 1:10.
- Acts 7:10 And rescued him out of all his afflictions and granted him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he appointed him governor over Egypt and over all his house.
- Isa 11:2 And the Spirit of Jehovah will rest upon Him, / The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, / The Spirit of counsel and might, / The Spirit of the knowledge and fear of Jehovah.
- 2 Chron 1:10 Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?
3. We must pray ourselves into God to receive the unsearchable riches of the Holy Spirit in order to be fed ourselves so that we can feed those under our care—Luke 11:1-13.
- Luke 11:1 And while He was in a certain place praying, when He ceased, a certain one of His disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, even as John also taught his disciples.
- Luke 11:2 And He said to them, When you pray, say, Father, Your name be sanctified; Your kingdom come.
- Luke 11:3 Give us each day our daily bread.
- Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us into temptation.
- Luke 11:5 And He said to them, Who among you will have a friend and will go to him at midnight and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves,
- Luke 11:6 Since a friend of mine has come to me from a journey and I have nothing to set before him;
- Luke 11:7 And that one, from inside, will answer and say, Do not trouble me; the door is already shut and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise up and give you anything?
- Luke 11:8 I say to you, Even though he will not rise up and give him anything because he is his friend, surely because of his shameless persistence he will rise and give him what he needs.
- Luke 11:9 And I say to you, Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.
- Luke 11:10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.
- Luke 11:11 But what father among you whose son shall ask for a fish will instead of a fish hand him a snake?
- Luke 11:12 Or if he shall also ask for an egg will hand him a scorpion?
- Luke 11:13 If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father who is from heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!
4. We must abide in fellowship with the Lord by walking according to our spirit, serving in our spirit, ministering the Spirit, and serving by the Spirit of God—1 John 1:6-7; Rom. 8:4; 1:9; 2 Cor. 3:6; Phil. 3:3; cf. Zech. 4:6.
- 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
- 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
- Zech 4:6 And he answered and spoke to me, saying, This is the word of Jehovah to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says Jehovah of hosts.

5. The Lord Jesus, as today's Moses and Elijah, is the real Prophet in our spirit, speaking for God and speaking forth God within His believers—Acts 3:22; 2 Tim. 4:22.

Acts 3:22 Moses said, "A Prophet will the Lord your God raise up unto you from your brothers, like me; Him shall you hear in whatever things He speaks to you.

2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

6. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the instant element for our prophesying.

C. We must have a clear view with the insight to see through all things in all situations through the enlightening of the divine light:

1. We can receive revelation only in our spirit—Eph. 1:17; Rev. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10.

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,

Rev 1:10 I was in spirit on the Lord's Day and heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

Rev 17:3 And he carried me away in spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

2. We must have not only the dove's eyes (S. S. 1:15) but also, and even more, eyes like pools (7:4):

S S 1:15 Oh, you are beautiful, my love! / Oh, you are beautiful! Your eyes are like doves.

S S 7:4 Your neck is like a tower of ivory; / Your eyes, like the pools in Heshbon / By the gate of Bath-rabbim; / Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon, / Which faces Damascus.

a. Dove's eyes signify the insight and realization of the Spirit—1 Cor. 2:11-12.

1 Cor 2:11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.

1 Cor 2:12 But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God;

b. Eyes like pools signify the enlarged and broadened vision full of light to cover the whole universe.

3. We must have a clear view of the entire universe to see the real situation of the world, of the churches, of our fellow believers, and of ourselves.

4. We must have the heavens opened to us to see visions of God by receiving the express word of the Lord (special, fresh, and vivid words that convey divine revelation) with the hand of the Lord upon us—Ezek. 1:1-3:

Ezek 1:1 Now in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth of the month, while I was among the captives by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Ezek 1:2 On the fifth of the month (it was the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity)

Ezek 1:3 The word of Jehovah came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of Jehovah was upon him there.

a. The hand of the Lord follows the word of the Lord; if what one ministers is truly God's word, God's almighty hand will follow to accomplish what He speaks.

b. God's hand upon man is also for leading man and for causing one to take action (cf. 1 Kings 18:46); after the Lord's hand came down upon Ezekiel, he did not act according to his own choice but according to the leading and directing of the Lord's hand.

1 Kings 18:46 And the hand of Jehovah was upon Elijah; and he girded up his loins and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

VII. We must speak with the constituting elements of prophesying—speaking what we have seen and heard with the living words of this life under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and with His enlightenment—1 John 1:3; Acts 22:13-15; 5:20:

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Acts 22:13 Came to me, and standing by, said to me, Saul, brother, receive your sight! And in that very hour I looked up at him.

Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers has previously appointed you to know His will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice from His mouth;

Acts 22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

Acts 5:20 Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

A. Prophesying is a miraculous normality:

1. It is normal because it requires us to learn the Word and be trained to speak.

2. It is miraculous because it is speaking with the divine element, the divine light, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

B. To prophesy is to have the oracles of God (God's speaking, God's utterance, that conveys divine revelation)—1 Pet. 4:11; cf. 1 Cor. 14:24-25.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

1 Cor 14:24 But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;

1 Cor 14:25 The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.

C. When we have the human learning of the Word, the divine inspiration of the Spirit, and the clear view, we will be able to prophesy.

D. Prophesying is always composed of the living words of this life, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the clear view through the enlightening of the divine light.

E. What a great thing it is that "he who prophesies builds up the church"—v. 4b!

1 Cor 14:4b ...but he who prophesies builds up the church.