

Prophecy in the Modern Church



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Sometime ago I attended a month long revival here in Washington DC and one night during the revival a visiting prophetess gave a prophecy to one of the members of that church. The next night the prophetess wasn't there and the presiding evangelist said something which struck a nerve within me, she stated how God never reveals a prophecy for a member without revealing it to their pastor first. The evangelist obviously didn't know what she was talking about; God can reveal prophecy to anyone in or outside the church. In the Old Testament, God used an animal to deliver a prophecy.

It's hard for a true prophet to minister within the church but not impossible. Prophets are often called upon to oppose corruption in the church. Most prophets in today's churches are nothing more than fortunetellers while some aspire to become church leaders. In this publication I address all of this but most importantly present the truth on the role of prophecy in the modern church. A true prophet will always have a hard time finding and maintaining a true church home because of their mandatory loyalty and close relationship with God but where God fearing church leadership can be found there can be a powerful prophecy ministry.

The ancient Hebrew prophet Jeremiah was born into a family of priest, his lineage can be traced all the way back to the noted Priest Zadok. Instead of following in his ancestors footsteps and becoming a priest, Jeremiah became a prophet. In his days and the generations before him a prophet was often considered an antagonist of the priesthood and Jeremiah proved to be no exception. Most of the Old Testament prophets stayed their distance from the priesthood and gave fiery prophecies on their wrong doings but some were able to form a working relationship with the priest like the ancient Hebrew prophetess Huldah. Prophets are often called upon to deliver wrathful messages from God to leaders of the church who are in the wrong.

What I have found most in churches with a prophecy ministry is gross misunderstanding by both prophet and leadership of what prophecy is and the role it plays in the body of Christ. I received an email from a family about a situation at their church in which a prophetess gave a prophecy that the family would receive a good size amount of money in seven months. This family really needed the money and was depending on this blessing to come through and it never did. (If God said He will do it, it will be done but sometimes the words from a prophet are not of God but of their own attempts) Sadly, most prophets in today's church operate in a similar fashion, assuming the role of a fortune

teller for the body of Christ. There seems to be an almost universal acceptance among believers that prophecy is all about telling the future, which is not true, prophecy goes much deeper.

Prophecy is truth which is undisputable and unmovable because it is the essence of God whom is all powerful. True prophecy cuts through illusions, confusion and deception and restores clarity and reality. Prophecy is the truth of God revealed to mankind, Prophets are carriers of this revealed truth who deliver the message to the intended. In prophecy as the prophetic word goes forth from God, the prophet captures it and sends it forth to the intended where it will manifest in some form. I call this whole process the prophetic flow and regardless of how the prophet receives the message from God this prophetic flow is always at the foundation of prophecy. The entire process is sacred because it begins with God and is founded on truth and involves a high level of spirituality on the part of the prophet.

To be included in the distribution of God's prophetic messages of truth is a high honor and is only extended to those who have proven worthy of this honor. Prophecy is a sacred gift that God bestows on individuals who have reached a high degree of spiritual maturity. Because the presence of God is so strong, convicting and illuminating only a spiritual person who has established a close relationship with God can handle the prophetic

messages of truth. It's not enough to be religious you must be born of the spirit and live a spiritual life to be blessed with the gift. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit John 3:6.

Regarding prophets who is also the leader of a church



I have come across many prophets who have aspired to become the leader of a church and though a true prophet of God can do this there is always the danger that the prophet's ego will consume them driving them to do hurtful and ungodly things to the people in their keep. History is full of prophets who become leaders of a church and abuse their power. Benito Catello, a self-proclaimed prophet operated a church in his home for years in Las Vegas, Nevada and developed a large loyal following of members. He became so influential with his flock they begin to call him their "Papa" and refer to themselves as his sheep. In 2009 he was arrested for 29 felony counts on sexual charges which involved two underage girls.

During Benito's arrest he claimed that his actions were "God's doing and he can't be held responsible". Stories abound of how so-called prophets have misled, sexually abused, embezzled and disgraced the body of Christ. Many of these fallen prophets once had the light of God within them and the intent to do what is right and still there are good prophets who have proven to be disciplined in their flesh and ego and have went on to become excellent examples of church leadership.

For those who are under a prophetic leadership these are some things I would have you to know so that you can ensure the person you are following is of God:

A true prophet of God would never ask you to do things that are against the laws of God or violate your rights and worth as a human. Any church which condones such behavior between church leadership and the congregation is damned in the eyes of God and will receive His wrath. Knowing about the sinful deeds being conducted in the body of Christ is almost the same as committing them. Many individuals before they leave this earth will pay for the silent role they played in some church disgrace. God calls upon His believers to separate themselves from these types of churches because they are not of Him.

Always be leery of prophets in leadership who emphasize that they are the only one in the church who can hear from God and therefore

whatever they say is the law of the congregation. This is a major red flag, indicating they have fallen under the spell of absolute power; it should be your signal to get the heck out of there and find another church. Many people (adults) stick around and tolerate corruption in their church because of sentimental and family attachments within the church but these ties and bonds will mean nothing when God pours out His wrath. This is the biggest downfall of prophets who falter as church leaders; they become enamored with their own power and eventually abuse it.

A true prophet and good church leader always place's the emphasis on God not themselves. Aside from absolute power, vanity is the number two trap for prophets who become church leadership. Instead of building a church around Christ they construct a worldly kingdom for themselves. When vanity is allowed to become the leadership of a church people suffer and spiritually starve. A true leader, especially a prophet acknowledges that they are a servant to the people and serves in humility before the mighty power of God.

The major role of prophecy within the body of Christ is to help the church stay focused on God. We are all human and suspect to sin even the holiest person in the world falters sometimes and we all experience distractions. The world is full of lies and illusions to keep us separated from God but the truthful words of a good

prophet helps the church and its members to forge their way through. Families experiencing difficulties, individuals attempting to overcome and leadership striving to find their way can all benefit from the truthful words of a sincere prophet. Giving prophecy in the church is more than just spouting out predictions the exchange between the prophet and individuals in the body of Christ is a process and a sacred occurrence.



The prophetic flow begins with God. A prophet may inquire of something or God may send a message without inquiry to the prophet. The prophetic message is birthed out of the essence of God and is therefore truth. Truth goes forth through the prophetic flow to its designation and manifest in spirit or chaos depending upon the reactions to it either way it causes change to occur. In this whole process the prophet acts as a carrier delivering the message/truth from one point to another. Whether by inquiry or through Divine Will God will send a prophetic message of truth to the Prophet bestowing a great responsibility and task upon the Prophet. The Prophet

now holds the truth within their hands and during this sacred moment they must be careful not to cloud it with their own judgments, prejudices, biases, opinions and beliefs before passing it on to the intended.

Once the individual receives the prophetic message it is their choice of how they will act on the truth given them. A Prophet can guide them with the truth given but must never try to force them into a decision. The whole situation is a part of their spiritual growth and the decision must spring from within them. Through their choices and actions often the truth given them they will do either of two things: help them to make correct choices and actions and invite Spirit to further develop their growth and assist them or through their own ignorance or rebellion make wrong choices and actions and invite chaos to further strip them down bringing decay into their lives. As you can see the role of the Prophet in is very important but also carries tremendous moral and ethical responsibilities. A Prophet must never compromise the truth entrusted to them, to do so is to invite their own ruin and judgment by God.

Prophecy in the church also helps to bring clarity to the decision making process of church leaders so that the ultimate outcome is what is best and right for the body of Christ. Too many church decisions are based off individual agenda's, profit, power struggles between opposing leaders and vanity, having a truthful

prophet in the process can eliminate these factors and help the decision rest on facts and the truth. In one of my publications I wrote how a small church was cajoled into selling the humble building they owned in exchange for a larger building that they could not afford and as a result they no longer exist. Had a true prophet been involved in the decision making process the church would have been shown the error in pursuing their vane desire for a bigger impressive building with such a small congregation to support it.



Prophets can also help reveal the will of God for and within the body of Christ. I know of a church that decided to purchase a shopping mall to house not only its church but “build a Christian shopping experience”. It was a very noble idea but it was not the will of God for that particular church. God’s will for the church was to minister to the abundance of young families who dwelled within the surrounding area who were not responding well to the

conservative traditional historic churches of that region. These families needed a fellowship that understood them and their needs not a church of retail therapy. Prophets assist church leadership in identifying and maintaining the will of God for their church. Having the truth helps leadership look at their situations realistically and helps to separate dreams from duty.

The call for repentance and returning to God is the bedrock of a true prophecy ministry within the church. At all levels of the membership from the pulpit to the pews the prophet is tasked with helping straying individuals return to God. We all know or have heard of church members who are openly sinful in their life outside the church such as the womanizing deacon, the whoring matron or party loving trustee, it is the job of the prophet to call these individuals to repentance and help them see the error of their ways. This aspect of the prophecy ministry can be a double edged sword because the prophet cannot chastise others for sins they themselves are also guilty of.



As a carrier of truth a Prophet must have a high code of conduct at all times and in all aspects of their life. It's impossible to be a true prophet without a code of conduct. It's hypocritical to try and deliver a message of truth on for example faithfulness in marriage while cheating on your own spouse. Because of the high code of conduct many prophets are loners because their life is devoted to pleasing God not man, their heightened state of spirituality actually helps them to meet the high code of conduct. A prophet is not worth their salt if they are known to be a drunkard, fornicator, thief, liar or any other negative vice. Yet, a reformed person who has put these things behind them and has raised themselves to better conduct is capable of carrying God's truth with a greater understanding and appreciation for it. The church looks to the prophet as an example and it's important that the prophet lives up to this.

Finding and maintaining a church home

A true prophet has a hard time finding and maintaining a church home because of the truths they are required to deliver and their loyalty to God instead of man but wherever they can find God fearing and devoted church leadership who believes in the gift of prophecy they can establish a productive ministry. The sad truth is that many leaders and congregations do not want the truth and those aspiring to be the "holiest of the holy"

within congregations often view prophets as a threat. There is no such thing as a perfect church, trouble abounds in all forms and at all times but when a true prophet finds a decent church seldom do they leave it. A church that welcomes prophecy and allows it to function in its proper role is a rare jewel.

Many church leaders take on an air of superiority and desire the prophet to serve at their beck and call but a true prophet of God answers only to God. A prophet can be a dutiful member and follow instructions in the operation of the church but when it comes to prophecy they must always follow the dictates of God. I have heard of pastors who cajole weak prophets into giving false prophecies in support of their agenda and when this happens that prophet ceases to be a prophet of God and becomes a false prophet and pawn of the leadership.

Having the gift of prophecy carries tremendous responsibility because people's lives, well being and decisions are guided by the prophetic message. To speak anything other than the truth given by God is to invite disaster in others lives. A Prophet is held accountable for the words that come from their mouth. A Prophet is also responsible for any relationship that cultivates with others through the exchange of prophecy; they are responsible for any inappropriateness, dependency or criminality. If someone goes astray because of a Prophets incorrect and

untruthful words the prophet is held accountable and they will suffer the wrath of God. A prophet's loyalty is to God alone which means they must follow and walk with truth; this truth comes before anything and often bumps heads with religious beliefs, other leaders and the ideologies of this world. This principle alone is what separates a true prophet from a false prophet.

When a prophet finds a good church home that allows them to build a ministry and fulfill their role within the body of Christ it is imperative that the prophet know their role, never step outside of their authority and remain steadfast on the truth of all things. To gain respect a prophet must give respect to those whom it is due. It is possible to remain loyal to God and build a good working relationship with church leadership at the same time but it calls for the prophet to be pure in their motives, spiritually mature and wise in their dealings with others. The world is full of false prophets whose foolishness and charlatan activities disgrace the title, a true prophet has to work double hard to make it known that they are not one of these. As in all things a prophet's works speaks for itself and if it is based upon truth and honor it will stand.

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