

▣ ▣ ▣ **ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING** ▣ ▣ ▣
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Why a Prophetic Training Class?

Numbers 11:23-29

Joel 2:28-29

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Verse 11 “will” Greek: *boulomahee* #1014 & 2309

To will, be willing, intends, desires, inclined to, to wish

This word used is a completely different expression than #2309 *theleo*, which denotes an objective consideration, choose, choice or prefer.

1 Corinthians 14:1-40

Verse 3 edification, exhortation, comfort, (not limited to one individual)

Verse 5 rather that you prophesied, than all speak with tongues, for he is greater!

Verse 12 seek to excel to edify the church through prophecy, only prophecy!

Verse 24 but if **all** prophesy...he is convinced of **all**...he is judged of **all**

Verse 31 you **all** may prophesy, one by one that **all** may learn, **all** may be comforted!

1 Thessalonians 5:11-22

Despise not #1848 *exoutheneo*

Contempt, esteem lightly, set at naught, to make utterly nothing of, disdain

(1 Corinthians 14:39-49 KJV) *Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. {40} Let all things be done decently and in order.*

Covet #2206 *zeloo*: envy, jealous over, zealously affected, sanctified lust

LEVEL 1 **THE DEEPER FLOW**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Fear and Unworthiness ---- Two biggest obstacles to overcome

1. **2 TIMOTHY 1:6-7** We are called to make changes into others lives.
2. Why do we fight change?
 - a. Prophet can impart to the believer.
 - b. Don't miss impartation because of someone's personality. It is the anointing that gets imparted.
3. Remember God will offend our minds to reveal our hearts.
4. Fear is sin. **1 Timothy 4:14** **Hebrews 2:3-4**

Neglect is the result of fear and a lack of understanding

B. COLOSSIANS 1:10

1. God has anointed us the same as Jesus. **ROMANS 1:4**
2. Jesus was made perfect through suffering □ we are too.
3. When your desire to bless others exceeds the fear of missing it or of making a mistake, then you can minister the way Jesus did.
4. Anytime you say, "I can't", you curse yourself and God.

C. *Prayer and Deliverance Time*

Fear, unworthiness, intimidation and inadequacy

II. ENTERING THE DEEPER FLOW

A. God wants to open our ears and open our mouths .

1. Open #6605 –*pathach*: To open wide, to loosen, to plow, to break forth, to draw out, let go free, to unstop, to ungird, to vent.
2. We need to pray like David: (Psalm 51:15) “O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise .
3. Why? Because we are living in the day that Isaiah and Joel prophesied!

ISAIAH 41:18 *“I WILL OPEN UP RIVERS IN THE HIGH PLACES, AND FOUNTAINS IN THE MIDST OF THE VALLEYS: I WILL MAKE THE WILDERNESS A POOL OF WATER, AND THE DRY LAND SPRINGS OF WATER.”*

JOEL 3:18 *“AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THAT DAY, THAT THE MOUNTAINS SHALL DROP DOWN NEW WINE, AND THE HILLS SHALL FLOW LIKE MILK AND ALL THE RIVERS OF JUDAH SHALL FLOW WITH WATERS, AND A FOUNTAIN SHALL COME FORTH FROM THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, AND SHALL WATER THE VALLEY OF SHITTIM.”*

- a. Where can we expect the flow? In the Valley of Shittim!! Shittim was another name for Acacia. The Valley of Shittim was the place where Joshua commanded the people to prepare to go into the promise land. It was a valley that had thousands of Acacia trees. Acacia wood represented humanity, the Ark of the Covenant was constructed of Acacia wood—the dwelling place of God: humanity. God says that in the day of the Joshua Generation, He will bring us into the Valley of the Acacias and in this Valley, we can expect new wine, new milk and a flow of God’s water His prophetic Word.
- b. Joshua was commanded to take the children of Israel to a land flowing with milk and honey. God wants to take us to a new position where we find the promised flow of New Testament honey □ the Word of the Lord. (Revelation 10:9 and Ezekiel 3:1-4)

III. INGREDIENTS TO THE DEEPER FLOW

- A. Faith - Romans 12:6
- B. Confidence : Confidence in His calling and His commissioning .
Proverbs 14:26
- C. Obedience : Obeying the voice of the Holy Spirit; to step out when the opportunity arises. 1 Samuel 15:22
- D. Boldness: Not based on personality, vocabulary, or education .
Proverbs 28:1
- E. Willingness to take risks : “Yes, there are giants in the land.”
1 Samuel 17:29-51
- F. Determination : based upon God -given vision . Proverbs 10:4
- G. Practice: Prophecy to the wind. Hebrews 5:14
- H. Mentoring/Association: Elijah- Elisha 2 Kings 2:1-14

IV. KEYS TO THE DEEPER FLOW

A. Realize that your confidence in God will begin to exceed your confidence in having to see, hear, or feel something before you prophesy. Like a river, if you open the dam water will come out.

B. Realize there are different levels of flowing:

Water can be found in:

1. Springs - clear, cool, but usually hidden.
2. Streams – no flow or force.
3. Lazy flowing rivers: lots of water but it meanders all over the place.
4. White-water rapids: like a rafter, you learn to go with the flow and avoid the danger areas.

C. Realize that there are seasons of flowing: Rivers usually peak in the spring. You will go through times and seasons when you feel dry...that's when you must learn to dig deeper for the underground river.

1. **Ezekiel 43:2** Ezekiel saw the Glory of God coming from the east gate... "His voice was like the roar of rushing waters."
2. The desire to bless others must exceed the fear of mistakes or missing it.
Humanity vs. Pride
3. **Ezekiel 47:6-12** There is a river from the temple that flows continually.
4. There is a time for the temple to be filled, but there is also a time when the temple doors open and water is allowed to flow out. The New Apostolic temple based upon God's pattern is designed to allow the flow of God's rushing, roaring water out!

D. Realize there is a diversity of flows:

We must make provision for different administrations of the same manifestation. Just as God can and does heal many ways, so can He minister prophetically many different ways.

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- E. Realize that what God considers accurate and what others consider accurate can be quite different. Accuracy must be judged on fruit.

- F. Realize you must yield to Holy Spirit's stretching: New levels for new devils.

Example: When prophesying over people, don't ask them their names and see if the Lord will give you a name while you are ministering to them.

V. KEYS TO THE ANOINTING

A. Victory over fear and intimidation.

B. Hearing God's voice and ministering God's voice.

1. Trust the voice of God.

Must believe God more than man.

“Die believing or live doubting”

2. Don't pick and choose.

Do not edit God's word as He gives it to you.

Give whatever you get. Doing this takes confidence.

Never, ever water or edit a word.

C. Develop a sensitivity to God.

1. Develop an insensitivity to your surroundings. (Helps you “lock-in”)

D. Dispel the fear of missing it.

What makes you think the person will know if you're speaking the Word of the Lord if he or she can't hear the Lord for themselves on their own.

E. Step out in faith and the Lord will honor your faith.

Like Peter you can surely trust His voice.

1. Natural mind (unjust judge) **1 Corinthians 2:14** (*Expond*)

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2. The natural mind cannot fathom nor understand the things of God. It does not receive spiritual things, it always perceives them as foolish.
3. The things that your natural mind receives does not always make it the authority. We must have the mind of Christ.
4. Do not use your mind to comprehend God or His voice! Dethrone the authority of the natural mind. Do not reject a word simply because it seems odd.

Do not try to comprehend or understand the word, just give the word as God gives it to you!

5. Do not take these keys to extremes.

Leaning toward extremes will cause:

Carnality
Arrogance
Loss of the Anointing

Presumption
Unteachable Spirit
Loss of Credibility

VI. SEASONING FOR THE FLOW

A. Seasoning your words with grace.

1. Youth sees most everything in absolutes. The older you get the more tolerant you become. Youth has a tendency to see black or white with timing issues. The more you grow, the more seasoned you become with the issue of timing.

Example: Realize that all the details you are shown do not have to be revealed. Many times details are given to help us minister compassionately or say things in a certain way, but are not necessary to be revealed.

Learn to minister from the “result side” rather than just the “cause side.”

B. Power versus performance.

As you become seasoned you realize you do not have to perform for man's approval, thus becoming more relaxed in your flow.

C. Willing to count the cost to minister in a deeper flow.

Women in Japan make a decision to stay single when they get saved.

D. Willing to expand and grow in your flow.

When the Brook of Cherith dries up, you must be willing to move on in Faith. If you quit progressing you will grow stagnant and die.

VII. MINISTERING A PURE FLOW

A. Pure and bitter don't flow from the same spout.

1. **James 3:9-12**

“With our tongue we praise the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth comes praises and cursing. My brothers, this should not be so. Can both fresh waters and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.”

B. Pure water produces life .

1. **Psalm 46:4**

“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God”

2. **Isaiah 43:19**

“I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...”

3. **Revelation 22:1**

“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb...down the middle of the great street of the city.”

C. The mouth can become impure through:

1. **Exaggeration**

2. **Gossip**

3. **Critical Words**

We need to be vessels of honor

VIII. CLARIFYING YOUR FLOW

A. It's okay to ask God questions.

1. Psalm 27:4

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that I will seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.”

Examples of asking the Lord what His voice means:

- a. Acts 10:11-17 Peter getting direction on the rooftop after the vision of the unclean animals. He *inquired* what the vision meant.
- b. Acts 10:5-6 Cornelius regarding sending men to Joppa for Simon Peter
- c. Acts 9:11-12 Ananias is spoken to by the Lord regarding Saul of Tarsus. In verse 13-14 Ananias *inquired* of the Lord. In verse 15-1 the Lord gives Ananias clarity.
- d. Genesis 25:22-23 Rebekah with child *inquired* of the Lord
- e. Judges 1:1-2 The children of Israel inquired of the Lord after the death of Joshua concerning battle against the Canaanites.
- f. Judges 20:28 Phinehas stood before the ark in those days saying, “Shall I yet go to battle against the children of Benjamin my brother...”
- g. 2 Samuel 1:1 David *inquires* of the Lord saying...
- h. Hebrews 11:6 God is a rewarder of those who DILIGENTLY seek Him.
- i. Luke 11:9,10-13 One way to seek is to ask.
- j. John 16: 13 If you ask God for clarity will he trick you? No let every man be found a liar and God be true. The Spirit of truth will speak and He will tell you things to come.

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- k. John 15:15 “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his Lord does; but I have called you friends; for **all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known to you.**

Our role as Christians is to reveal Jesus to the world. Jesus came to reveal the Father. He said, “Greater works shall you do,” because He wanted us to reveal Him, like He revealed the Father.

IX. HINDRANCES TO THE FLOW

- A. Fear of Man
- B. Theology
- C. Fear of not articulating correctly
- D. Fear due to other's "horror stories"
- E. Division of soul and spirit
 - 1. Unforgiveness
 - 2. Bitterness
 - 3. Resentment

LEVEL II PRINCIPLES

The deeper flow, more accurate revelation, stronger anointing, prophetic credibility, increased fulfillment, and signs and wonders: these are all desires deep within the heart of every prophetic son or daughter of God.

I SAMUEL 3:1-20

This passage tells us that Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. He did not let any of his words fall to the ground, and all Israel knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the Lord.

Three times the scriptures declare Samuel grew, on two of those occasions he was said to be a child. However, on the last occasion Samuel was a man.

1. Grow
2. The Lord was with him
3. Guarded his words

I. WHAT WILL KEEP OUR WORDS FROM FALLING TO THE GROUND?

A. *Relationship: Psalm 25:14*

1. The secret of the Lord is with them who fear Him.
2. Reverence only comes through intimacy.
How intimate are you with the Lord? Do you press into knowing Him?
3. Are you searching for Him with all your heart ?
4. Do you seek look for the Lord? (hide-n-seek) *Jeremiah 29:11-14*

B. *Consecration: 1 Thessalonians 4:3*

1. This is the will of God: our sanctification.
That you possess your own vessel in sanctification and honor.

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2. Be ye separate, touch not the unclean thing.
3. *Titus 2:11-14* Consecration = good works.

Be zealous of good works

4. *Ephesians 2:10* says, We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God predestined that we should walk in them.

C. The Word 2 Timothy 3:16-17

1. The Word of God is our lamp and light, our illumination.
Revelation only comes as a flow to the prophet who is in God's Word.
2. The New Testament prophet can only prophecy that which is revealed truth from the Word of God.
3. You must fill your well with God's Word which bring life.

D. Faith Romans 12:6

1. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them; let us prophecy according to the proportion of our faith.
2. Is our level of faith limited? NO!
3. *Hebrews 11:6* “Without faith it is impossible to please Him...”
faith = seeking Him
4. *Hebrews 11:1* Faith is the evidence of things not seen = revelation
5. *Romans 10 :17* Faith comes by hearing ...listening
6. *Jude 20* Build your faith by praying in the Holy Ghost.
7. *James 2:26* Faith without works is dead, Faith grows by works.

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E. Use of Gift Mark 4:24 (NKJV)

1. Take heed what you hear, with the same measure you use, is the same measure you will receive.

Use Little = Receive Little Use Much = Receive Much

2. *1 Peter 4:10* As you have received a gift even so minister it to one another as good stewards. If you don't use your gift what kind of stewards are we?
3. Parable of the talents
4. *Hebrews 5:14* Reason of use

F. Prayer / Intercession Watchman Ezekiel 3:10, 17, 25-27

Rules of the Prophets

1. God's words must first go to our hearts, then our ears. Our ears have no compassion and no emotions to stir us to pray, to intercede, and to stand in the gap. But our hearts do, therefore God first speaks to our heart!
2. God has made thee a watchman. Watchmen love the inhabitants of the city, this is why they don't sleep on the job. Love proves out their diligence.

Jesus said watch and pray. The two go hand in hand.

A prophet who doesn't pray prior to ministry is a clanging gong...

We are Priests who enter the Holy Place on behalf of God's people!

What an honor God has bestowed upon us!

Prophets are not to be reprovers. Let God make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, then when He speaks, let Him loose your tongue.

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G. Anointing / Wisdom & Understanding 1 John 2:27.

1. We have an anointing that abides and lives in us from Christ. This unction of the Holy One will teach us if we allow it to. However this takes time.

Time & Relationship = Trust = Confidence

2. Confidence is something gained through time. The anointing brings confidence!
3. The anointing is God's seal of ordination. It is the anointing that destroys the yoke.
 - a. Strive for God's anointing on your life to be manifested.
 - b. God's anointing comes as a still small voice, not in fanfare and side shows.
 - c. Purity, holiness, and consecration bring release to the anointing.
 - d. Your word can be right, but without the anointing it is void of power to accomplish God's desired purposes.
4. ***Isaiah 55...***

“The anointing is the tangible authority of the believer, the authorization from heaven upon a believer to do the work of God—the power that causes the accomplishment of the purposes of God.”

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II. PROPHETIC PROTOCOL

- A. The Word of the Lord in the mouth of the untrained brings destruction and death rather than healing and life.
- B. Fineness and excellence come first through watching.
- C. Always, always, always speak the word of the Lord in the Spirit of the Lord.
1. Gentleness
 2. Kindness
 3. Goodness
 4. Self-control
 5. Peace

The Word of the Lord brings life, it is the well-spring of life

- D. At this juncture avoid words of strong correction, especially public words.
1. Not seasoned prophets (yet).
 2. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you...
 3. God does not establish His credibility through novices. (We are still novices)
 4. If you enjoy strong corrective words you'd better examine your heart.

Psalm 37:21 The righteous shewth mercy.

Proverbs 10:12 Love covers a multitude of sins.

Psalm 85:8-13 I will hear what the Lord will speak for He will speak peace.

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Mercy and truth have met together.

Notice the order, first mercy, then truth.

5. *John 1:17* Make this your foundation.

Law = Old Testament Grace = New Testament

Who are you speaking for?

6. Correction through wisdom and grace brings life and encouragement.

Litmus test : How do we correct our spouse or the person you are the most familiar with? This is the degree to which you should correct.

JESUS CHRIST: "Don't ever beat my sheep, says the Lord."

- E. Realize God has not brought us into a judgment dispensation.

III. PROTOCOL IN PERSONAL PROPHECY AND PUBLIC MINISTRY

A. Minister with care and wisdom when revealing details in one's life.

1. Do not expose or embarrass.
2. Use general terms that the person will understand without everyone else knowing.
3. Don't be critical, condemning or demeaning.

Examples: Man with homosexual tendencies, abortion, woman present with mother, or vice-versa, man with unclean thoughts, details of a man's job with a boss in the same church.

4. Ask questions: Are you from this church? Are your parents here? Do you have children? **Use wisdom.** Don't start shooting from the hip—if you do, you'll bring destruction.
5. God will normally entrust corrective words to the mature prophet, who can minister healing and restoration through the insight and revelation the Lord gives to him or her.
6. Prophets who itch to prophesy judgment and straighten out others are not candidates for this type of ministry.

B. **Guidelines for public ministry:**

1. Are you still able to love and honestly think the same about someone once you have had knowledge of something bad?
2. Be totally honest. If not you're not ready for this kind of ministry, avoid it, purposely avoid it. I do.
3. Remember do not assume anything, if you're not completely convinced, keep quiet.
4. Ask the Lord to make it perfectly clear. If there is confusion, it is either your human spirit or demonic.
5. Don't discern by the seeing of your eyes.

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6. Don't play to the crowd through responses.

IV. NATURAL PROTOCOL FOR TEAMS

- A. Must recognize and submit to the Pastor. Prophets are sent to build and submit, not to take over.
- B. Show great respect. Be affirming. Be attentive to other's ministry. Never contradict, don't repeat words, if you received the same word, hold it.
- C. Learn to handle the microphone. Don't ever interrupt someone ministering. Don't hog the show; let others flow as much or more than yourself.

No "I" in T.E.A.M.

- D. Don't go too long. Don't preach your doctrine when prophesying. Better short than long. CONDENSE. It is too difficult for people in the congregation that are not being ministered to.
- E. Lay hands on people wisely, with respect. Call people out by color of clothing, not color of skin (i.e. my black brother, etc.).

V. MINISTERING TO THOSE IN AUTHORITY

A certain amount of wisdom and protocol are necessary while ministering to leaders in the body of Christ. God is sovereign. He can raise up anyone to prophesy to men of stature and authority, and at times He allows leaders to maintain a humble perspective. God is not a respecter of persons and truly any believer can share something of value with another believer.

A. Leadership protocol does come into perspective when releasing prophetic ministry, several points should be observed in this area:

1. The prophetic minister should not have improper motives, nor be presumptuous in ministering to leaders.

No “notch-in-the belt” prophets

2. God’s desire for corrective words is that they be received not rejected.
3. We are more apt to receive correction from someone we know and trust.

Example: David & Nathan

4. Remember God builds relationship and sets divine appointments for this very reason.
5. For prophets with maturity and accuracy, specific words of correction are probably unwise to share for most leaders they see and encounter.
Prophet / Intercessor: What to pray for, and what to release?
6. Remember the insight God shares with you serves to strengthen others, not to validate our prophetic ministries.

God confirms His word (not ministers) with signs following.

7. Sometimes prophetic ministry must be accomplished in private.

Why?

- a. The Word to the leader will affect many others. Leaders must be allowed to pray in private and make appropriate consideration toward the word.

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- b. This is not to say that all words to leaders are private. God's word does affirm leaders in the eyes of the people.

Examples of private ministry:

- (1) II Kings 9:2,6 Young prophet anointed Jehu as King
- (2) I Samuel 15:13-31 Samuel and Saul
- (3) I Kings 11:29 Ahijah prophesied to Jereboam alone in the field

Example: You are ministering to a Pastor called to be an apostle and the Lord shows you the next pastor from among his staff.

- c. Divine wisdom and discretion is needed when ministering in these areas. It is precisely why prophets need training in areas of leadership and protocol.

- (1) How would you prophesy to leaders of nations?
- (2) Be careful what you share publicly.
- (3) Don't be a big-shot; remember you are God's errand boy.
- (4) 1 Kings 13—read and study—Prophets are not above God's correction.

VI. PROPHECIES CAN NEVER CONTROL, DICTATE OR DOMINATE

Through prophetic ministry God gives divine direction and confirmation. However man, being a free moral agent, is responsible to make his own decisions, free of the spirit of control and manipulation influencing him.

We must not look to prophetic ministry to tell us every detail of our lives and ministry. If so we become dependent on man and prophecy rather than God.

- A. Control and domination are often visible through an individual with prophetic giftings who through the gifting see themselves superior to others less revelatory.
- B. Pride says, "I am superior to others." Remember God is no respecter of persons, we all must be dependent upon each other in the Body of Christ.
- C. Controlling prophets many times will have a small flock of their own; believers who look to them to guide their every decision (whom to marry, how to invest, etc.) Many times this feeds the independent spirit, driving the individual to become totally disconnected to the body, eventually becoming "mavericks" and "lone ranger" prophets. If this type of control is not dealt with the person will take on an Absalom spirit, and thus become divisive and destructive to God's flock. Absalom works to turn the people of God away from their Shepherd thus destroying the flock of God.
- D. This form of control is not prophecy at all, it is witchcraft under the disguise of spiritual ministry.
- E. Remember prophecy is only one way of determining the will of God in your life.

Some others include:

- 1. Peace of the Spirit.
- 2. Divine arrangement and contacts.
- 3. Pastoral counsel.
- 4. Prayer and fasting.

"Seek the Lord with your whole heart, and He will guard you from deception."

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VII. PROPHECY GIVEN TO EDIFY OTHERS, NOT FOR PERSONAL GAIN

A. True Holy Spirit inspired prophetic ministry will glorify God in the person's life.

1. **1 Corinthians 14:24-25**

2. **Revelation 19:11** Spirit of prophesy is the testimony of Jesus.

3. **John 16:14** The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus Christ.

B. Check the fruit of the prophet.

Do their prophecies promote themselves or their ministries ?

If so Beware!

C. Do not use prophetic ministry to promote your agendas, eschatology, doctrine or your own promotion.

God will judge this severely; this type of self-promotion borders on witchcraft and charlatanism.

D. Prophets are trained by the Lord through life's circumstances to speak the Word of the Lord without the thought of the fear or favor of man.

1. Gehazi - **2 Kings 5:20-27**

VIII. WORD OF THE LORD VS NATURAL KNOWLEDGE

A. Deception comes through our desires, emotions, compassion and heart for others.

1. Must separate my will from God's will.
2. The word of the Lord is God's proclaimed "particular" will for that person or church or situation.

B. Some areas of concern include:

1. Marriage - life-long covenant between two consenting individuals.

Entered through co-equal desire and commitment.

Not duress, pressure, or someone else's perception. (Don't play Cupid)

2. Known relationships—your natural knowledge and desire, good or bad will influence you in ministry to people you are close to.

Avoid ministry to these people = WISDOM

If you do receive a word in this type of situation, give it to someone else to judge and if it is accurate have them give the "Word of the Lord" not your word.

3. Healings and Miracles

a. Avoid prophetic ministry to known situations.

b. Healing is God's revealed will through scripture: "Jesus' stripes"

c. Avoid assuming or prophesying someone's healing without a specific word from the Lord.

d. Word of Knowledge - OK - Natural Knowledge - No Good

e. When giving a Word of healing God also gives the power to heal.

IX. PROPHETS DIVINELY GIFTED TO MINISTER TO ALL GOD BRINGS THEM

- A. **Romans 12:6** “Prophecy according to the proportion of your faith”
- B. **1 Corinthians 14:32** “The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet”
- C. **1 Peter 4:10** “As each has received a gift, so minister it one to another”
- D. **Ephesians 4:11** Is a pastor a pastor 24-hours-a-day? Prophet?

PROTOCOL: “TIDBITS OF WISDOM”

1. God gives the truth; the delivery is up to us.
2. Right revelation, Wrong interpretation, Wrong application.
3. Only say what God says, don't add to it and don't try to figure it out.
4. Let people make up their own minds, don't help them out.
5. Ask questions of the Lord, if He doesn't answer, ask the person.
6. Don't assume anything, ever!
7. Even if God shows you something about a church or pastor, don't share it. Only share it if the pastor asks then only if the Lord gives you permission.
8. First learn to be an intercessor and then a prophet. If not, you may end up like Balaam or Gehazi.
9. Playing to the grandstand or audience will always get you into trouble.
10. Remember prophet, you are only one word away from being a jackass.
11. Assumption is always deadly.
12. Don't listen to the unjust judge.
13. Never uncover or expose. Don't be unethical.
14. Don't go anywhere God has not sent you.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL II PRINCIPLES

15. Don't say anything God has not said to you.
16. Don't ever call people out by race.
17. Don't prophesy the eternal word!
18. Put the Word in the best package you can.
19. Don't expound, give what you get.
20. Don't counsel, prophesy.
21. Don't get hung up on eschatology or doctrine.
22. Learn to take a negative and make it a positive.
23. Use extreme caution in public.
24. Always, always, always seek to bless others regardless of the cost.
25. Never minister to anyone differently than you would the Lord Jesus.
26. Always walk worthy of the calling and don't be thin-skinned.
27. Remember you prophesy in part. Don't get puffed up, you're human.
28. Always be in the Word, always be with the Lord.
29. Always check your heart. Do I love God's people? (Never beat my sheep)
30. Never Quit!!!

LEVEL III PITFALLS

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. God always works first on our manhood, maturity, marriage, and motive before He concentrates on our ministry.

Allow God to perfect your...

Morality, methods, motives, message, money, ministerial ethics.

- B. God must first purge and purify us before we can affect the multitudes.

- C. **1 Thessalonians 5: 23** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Maturity = Accountability + Responsibility

We will look at several areas of caution and concern which could cause the prophetic minister to fall into the pit.

You are already in God’s PIT.

Prophet – In – Training **P. I. T.**

- D. The Word of God clearly teaches that the saints do not choose their membership ministry within the Body of Christ.

1. **1 Corinthians 12:18**
2. Members do not call themselves to a 5-fold ministry of their choosing.
3. **Ephesians 4:8, 11** He gave some to be...
4. **1 Corinthians 12:28** God has set in the church apostles & prophets.
5. **John 15: 16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and ordained you.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

- E. The gifts and callings of God are based on His sovereignty, not on human worth or persistence in requesting a position.
1. To whom much is given, much is required.
 2. Jesus has a special love for those called to represent Him. He has given to them of His own nature, grace, gifts, and ministry. So those to whom much is given, much is required. James 3:1 declares that these will be judged more strictly.
 3. This principle of accountability seems to apply strongly to those called to be prophets.
 4. Those called to speak directly for Him with “thus saith the Lord” are given much.
 5. Much more is required of prophets in the areas of obedience, integrity, righteousness, and Christ-likeness.

Dr. Bill Hamon has coined the phrase “Prophetic Pitfalls.” These pits are satanic snares which, if not avoided, will cause a prophetic minister to be destroyed.

This third level of training is designed to reveal the pitfalls of the devil and to activate your gifting to a new level of integrity and powerful accuracy. Power and purity in ministry to reach your predestined purpose; to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ, the Great Prophet.

F. Weed Seeds, Root Problems and Character Flaws

1. Weed seeds are attitudes within a person’s heart that will spring into a dangerous weed of wrong behavior.
2. Problems occur when weed seeds are allowed to sprout, because they will grow.

G. The root system becomes intertwined with the roots of the Word of God within your heart.

1. Why are root problems dangerous?

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

In the natural, the roots of weeds rob nutrients that would normally be going into the fruit-bearing plants.

2. Realize that God does not uproot tares until after the harvest.
 3. Winter season, trees cannot be pruned while fruit is on the branches.
 4. God will wait until your winter season to uproot your bad roots.
- H. However we can uproot small weeds while they are still attitudes and not yet fully matured plants.
1. Deal with weed seeds before they become root problems.
 2. Root problems will become intertwined with personality and performance.
 3. Quick repentance is the key for digging up weed seeds!
- I. **Romans 11:22**
1. God's goodness in choosing us.
 2. God's severity in training and maturing us.
 3. Heaven in the calling; Hell in the perfecting.
 4. Remember: There is no limit in what God can and will do to perfect us.
- J. Do you still want to be a Prophet?
1. Root of bitterness - Hebrews 12:15
 2. Root of evil - 1 Timothy 6:10
 3. Holy Roots - Romans 11:16

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

II. ELIJAH PITFALL: 1 KINGS 17-19

- A. Elijah demonstrated many admirable qualities of a Prophet of God.
1. Prayer
 2. Faith
 3. Obedience to the voice of the Lord.
 4. Willingness to put his life on the line.
 5. Challenged the people of God.
- B. Character flaws existed in Elijah's life which would cause him to be susceptible to satanic pitfalls.
1. The pity of self-pity.
 - a. Elijah's reaction to Jezebel's response to his destruction of the false prophets was a plunge from powerful prophetic ministry to a pit of self-pity and pessimism.
 2. Kings 19:4-8
 - a. Prayers of self-pity: "God kill me. I am the only one left who serves You."
 - b. Elijah was mighty in prophesying and performance but weak in personality, attitude, and adjustment to rejection and persecution.
 - c. Elijah could not handle rejection and persecution.
 - d. Prophets are sometimes placed in extreme situations with high stakes.
 - (1) Success vs. Failure
 - (2) Acceptance vs. Rejection
 - (3) Vindication vs. Humiliation
 - (4) Life vs. Death

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

- e. Many times successes are followed by rejection and threats of destruction.

Avoid the pit of discouragement

Pit of discouragement

Disappointment

Discouragement

Bitterness

Resentment

Self-Pity

Persecution Complex

Anger

Critical Spirit

Deception

Delusion

3. Once a critical spirit takes over, you become a law unto yourself, taking on a spirit of rejection and becoming unreachable through self-delusion.
 - a. "Everybody is against me"
 - b. "Nobody understands me"
 - c. "Nobody appreciates me"

4. Cave mentality: "I am the only one left", opens you to a spirit of error.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

III. SPIRIT OF ERROR

- A. The spirit of error will find its strength and roots when one becomes exclusive and seclusive.
- B. Based normally in the “**I AM**” mindset with pride as its foundation.
Warning Signs:
1. Why isn't the leadership seeing this?
 2. Self-pity and “Woe-is-me” mentality.
 3. Criticism toward leaders.
 4. Self-importance rather than esteeming others.
- C. This exclusive / seclusive spirit will use those bound by it to sow discord and suspicion in the Body of Christ (it is the opposite of edification).
1. Deception : Their doctrine is still OK, not realizing their spirit is wrong.
 2. Freedom : Destroy the inflated sense of self-importance; get out of the self-pity party and martyrdom / persecution complex.
- D. The deception of this spirit blinds our eyesight in seeing the need for and dependency on the Body of Christ ; once the believer is cut off from dependence on the Body of Christ, they become open prey for satanic destruction.
1. NO LONE RANGERS - NO MAVERICK PROPHETS
- E. Prophets must develop Christ's character, able to receive both positive and negative input with consistent grace.
- F. Prophets must maintain a proper attitude and a healthy, steadfast walk with Jesus whether received or rejected by the people of God, and the leadership of His church.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

1. “Suffering is the standard for the Prophetic life”
2. Persecution and suffering is the prophet’s cross to bear.
3. **James 5:10** *“My brothers take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering and patience.”*
 - a. Has this changed?
4. As prophets and prophetic people we must accept the fact that we will suffer rejection, persecution and even pressure from peers. We must not allow these things to cause us to develop a persecution complex or a spirit of rejection.
5. Realize if God is calling you to this type ministry, then His enabling grace will see you through, as long as you walk in faith and obedience to His principles.

G. Wisdom

1. Avoid reaction to leadership’s response, whether good or bad.
(Don’t look for kudos)
2. Learn to handle rejection and persecution by abiding in the Lord’s presence.
3. Avoid the deception of seclusion and exclusiveness.
4. Avoid the pit of discouragement.
5. Don’t be deceived. You are not alone. God has His remnant.
6. REMEMBER: Repent and respond properly.
7. Receive God’s grace to receive praise without becoming proud.
8. Receive God’s grace to accept persecution without developing a complex.
9. Don’t try to be a sheriff.
10. Keep a broad perspective.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

11. Walk in great mercy.
12. Recognition is not dependent on being behind a pulpit.
13. No one except yourself can keep you from becoming what God wants you to become.

H. 2 Corinthians 4: 15-18

1. Scripture of choice for prophets.
2. Learn to rejoice in all things.

I. 1 Peter 4: 1-2

- J. Those who have suffered in the flesh have ceased from sin.
1. Suffering brings about humility; humility brings the exaltation of Jesus.

- K. **1 Peter 5:10** *After you have suffered awhile...*
Perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle

Remember: Prophets are called by God to be examples of suffering for the perfection of Christ in His body.

IV. ABRAHAM'S PITFALL: FAMILY PRESSURE

A. *Genesis 12-25*

1. Abraham allowed family pressures and influences to hinder him from obeying God completely. Family pressures also hindered Abraham in his decision making.
2. God had told Abraham to leave his family and his country. However, a study of scriptures show that his father and his family traveled with him, causing him to settle in Haran for several years, hindering his fulfillment of God's plan in the land of Canaan.
3. Again, family pressures are found with Lot in their travels and with Sarah, convincing him to go in to Hagar and produce Mr. Ishmael (which continues to hinder the family of Isaac to this day).
4. God has not called us to be dictators. However, there are times when God His will clearly to the prophet and, as priests of the home, he must take a firm stand in waiting patiently until God's way for his personal prophecy to be fulfilled is revealed.
5. Often, other family members are motivated by their own convictions rather than divine directives about the when, where, and how of fulfilling a Word.

V. MOSES' PITFALL: OVER-PROTECTIVENESS

A. *Numbers 14:11-24*

1. Human compassion and mercy vs. prophetic purposes.
 - a. Moses' personal strength of mercy taken to the extreme became his weakness and downfall.
2. Moses was overprotective of his pastoral flock and too insistent that God preserve the established generation instead of starting a new one.
3. Several times God had spoken to Moses about killing off the older generation, the ones unwilling to get Egypt out of themselves. Moses argued each time with God to preserve them. These very ones Moses tried to preserve pushed him beyond his own limits, causing him to respond in anger and forfeit His own prophetic destiny.
 - a. It is better to allow God's prophetic purposes & decrees to prevail.
 - (1) Isaiah and Hezekiah
 - (2) Estimated 10 problems could have been avoided.
 - b. Don't insist that old wineskin saints or denominations have to come in. If so, you may end up in the wilderness with them.
 - c. Provoking people can cause you to cancel part of your own personal prophetic destiny.
 - (1) Psalm 106: 32-33
 - d. Remember: God's prophetic purposes supercede religious people's preferences!
 - (1) Pastoral compassion must have balance.
 - (2) Even though Moses interceded, did not God eventually destroy the stiff-necked generation?

VI. JONAH'S PITFALL: PRIDE AND JUDGMENT

A. Jonah 1-3

1. Jonah had the weed seed attitude of pride and a root problem of judgment. Jonah was more interested in seeing God destroy the wicked than in seeing God have mercy on them. His character flaw was being more concerned about his reputation and respectability than with the people he ministered to.
2. Don't be immature prophets with roots of pride, anger, vengeance stubbornness, and selfish-ambition.
3. Don't run from assignments that have the possibility of making you look bad or that may be unprofitable.
 - a. God may send you to the bottom of the ocean to think it over for awhile.
 - b. **Remember:** Although the Lord will not make you go against your will, He has ways of making you willing.
4. Don't be a spoiled child prophet that dictates to God how to fulfill His Word through them.
5. Don't try to intimidate or threaten God.
6. Avoid saying things like: "This isn't fair, I deserve better than this"

B. I know several prophets with the "Jonah Syndrome" and God is holding them at the bottom of life in a restricted area until they quit blaming others and Him for their own problems, and are willing to pay their vows and obey the Lord.

1. Put to death popularity, personal promotion, and selfish service.
2. If you don't get out of the "Jonah Syndrome," God will remove your covering and sunburn your head.

C. Warning signs of the "Jonah Syndrome:"

1. Anger and resentment at God's severe perfecting process.
2. Unproductive, little corporate effectiveness.
3. No release and acknowledgement in the Body of Christ.
4. Loose cannons; Maverick prophets (do as you please)

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

5. In for the quick glory or the long haul?
 6. Justifying our sin, not owning up.
 7. Cynical, critical, and judgmental.
- D. When you are corrected, learn to receive the correction no matter how you feel about it (you may be blind to the issue). Don't listen to peers or family, simply take the correction, and grow so God can lift you up.

VII. ACHAN AND JUDAS' PITFALLS

A. Joshua 6-7

1. Achan's character flaw was selfishness.
2. I saw, I coveted, I took, I put... Joshua 7:21
3. Achan's only concern was for "Me and Mine"
 - a. This pitfall will deceive you into thinking you are more important than the rest of the Body.
4. 600,000 other soldiers obeyed the command of the Lord through Joshua.
5. Achan knew that his actions jeopardized the whole camp of Israel.

God's divine judgment is most severe during the establishment of new things in the Kingdom. The "Achan Syndrome" will make one feel that he or she is exempt from divine directives and entitled to special privileges to enjoy things on which God has placed restrictions.

When prophets start thinking that they deserve more recognition and offerings, or focus only on their own desires, possessions and ministry, then the seed of the Achan spirit is in their heart.

When we lose the greater vision for the success of the whole Body of Christ, the Achan seed has sprouted a plant of self-destruction.

This is the sin of Lucifer:

Pride, selfishness and self-promotion.
I will...

B. Remember Your Overall Purpose.

1. To fulfill God's purpose for His Church.
2. Not to possess the most, or to make our ministry the greatest.
3. Independence must die. Interdependence must live.
4. Kill old perspectives that say prophets are loners, functioning independently from the rest of the Church.

C. Judas' Character Flaws

1. The desire to be rewarded for every service.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

2. The desire for reputation .
 3. Wrong understanding of leadership promises . (Matthew 19:28)
 4. Self-ambition, frustration and resentment.
 - a. Justification for betrayal
- D. Judas and Achan had a kindred spirit and the same root problem: **“Self”**
1. Most likely Judas, because of impure ambitions, misinterpreted Jesus’ promises and directives regarding His ministry.
 2. “I have sacrificed my business, my opportunities for promotion, and my possessions to follow Jesus day and night. Now, I get the impression from what Jesus is saying that He won’t fulfill my dreams. I thought following Jesus would advance my position, power, and prestige.”
 3. This is Satan’s first step of deceptions , convincing us that leadership is not living up to the promises that they have betrayal .
 - a. Deception causes wrong interpretation .
 - b. Deception causes justification .
 - c. Deception causes betrayal .
- E. How does this deception work?
1. Improper motives and promises that are not put on the Isaac altar .
- F. If given place the Judas spirit will cause you to be self-righteous .
- a. Self- servicing .
 - b. Self- promoting .
- G. We must examine our hearts .
1. Do we want our voice to be heard ?
 2. Do we need to be noticed ?

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

3. Do we need a “pat on the back” for almost everything we do? (rewards)
4. Do we operate in self-preservation?
5. Do we refuse (in our hearts) input from oversight?
6. Do we tend to be loners?
7. How do we respond to the promotion of others?
8. How does the promotion of peers affect us?

We all have, at times, denied the Lord or have felt let down by the Lord.
However, how did you respond?

Like Peter or Judas?

- a. *Philippians 2: 7* No reputation...
- b. *John 12:24* Corn of wheat falls and dies...
- c. *Proverbs 21: 2* Right in our own eyes...
- d. *Matthew 6:33* Seek first the Kingdom...

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

VIII. JAMES AND JOHN SYNDROME (MARK 10:35-45)

- A. Desire for position and power rather than servanthood and ministry to others.
- B. Immature, ambitious drive causing you to seek for a position in ministry closest to the leader.
 - 1. Lack of contentment with God's plan for promotion and position.
 - 2. Deception of false qualification and experience.
- C. More zeal than wisdom; caused by impure motives and unsanctified ambitions.
- D. Jesus did not rebuke James and John, but taught them the (directed them to the) truth.
 - 1. Serving vs. Mastering
 - 2. Ministering vs. Managing
 - 3. Authority and greatness from the Kingdom perspective rather than the world's standards.
- E. Ambition and zeal are profitable *if* sanctified and directed by Holy Spirit.
- F. All servants of great authority served an apprenticeship.
 - 1. Joshua
 - 2. Samuel
 - 3. Elisha
 - 4. The Twelve Disciples
 - 5. Timothy
- G. Don't feel like a failure.
 - 1. *Proverbs 18:16* A man's gift will make room for him...
 - 2. *Psalms 75:6-7* Promotion comes from the Lord...
- H. **Luke 9:51-54**

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

1. Many times, zeal not coupled with wisdom is destructive.
 2. "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of."
 3. Religiosity destroys... Relationship gives life
- I. Just because we are not received does not give us the right to call down fire!
1. Examine our hearts.
 2. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER say "God judge that one"
 3. Judge not, lest ye be judged.
 4. Look into your heart. Are you sending blessing to those who reject you?

IX. BALAAM PITFALL: TRUE PROPHESIER; FALSE PROPHET

- A. EVERY prophet should thoroughly study the life of Balaam if he or she desires to avoid the character flaws found in this man.

Point to remember: Many of you say, “Oh I would never be or act like these you have described.” However, you say that in the condition and place which you now sit. In the fire, things change!

For example, at the wedding altar, looking at your beautiful bride or your handsome groom, none would dare to say that they would ever quarrel or call each other unedifying names. Yet, has this not happened?

Why? Because you were in the fire!

Pressure and heat are designed (when brought together) to cause what is inside to come out.

This is the whole purpose for the refiner’s fire: ***Don’t forget this!***

- B. Judgment of prophecy vs. Judgment of the prophet.
1. Prophecy
 - a. Spiritual message must conform to biblical Truth.
 - b. Objective, verifiable statements about the past or the present must be checked against the facts.
 - c. Predictions for the future are judged by whether they come to pass.
 2. Prophets and prophetic ministers discerned by:
 - a. Character
 - b. Spirit of Wisdom.
 - c. Fruit of the Holy Spirit in personal life.
 - d. Fruit of ministry remains after initial manifestation of miracles or signs. (John 15:16)

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

C. Numbers 22:1-41

1. Notice, Balaam's message, ministry, and manhood seemed to be in order.
However, further study reveal his motives, maturity, methods, and money were not in order at all.
2. Since the King called for Balaam, he was probably the greatest prophet of his time and region. He seemed to be God- fearing and one who walked in integrity.
He would not prophesy anything but that which God spoke to him.
 - a. Verse 13; half-truth stated.
 - b. Verse 12; God speaks. This is always important. *NOTHING else* matters.
 - c. Verse 17; Test of pleasing God rather than man. (God had spoken)
 - d. Verse 17; Manipulation, honor, fame, money, possessions.
Satan knows what to tempt us with!
Fame, gold, girls, glory...
3. Many words spoken in pride (sin).
 - a. The spirit reveals itself.
4. Balaam should have said only what God said.
 - a. Boasting about his ministry and declaring he could not be bought.
 - b. Lack of humility.
 - c. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.
 - d. DO NOT be pressured by man to prophesy.
5. Balaam's motives are revealed in verse 19. He had not died to money that could be gained.
 - a. "Stay here tonight while I inquire of the Lord"
 - b. Deception trapped him. Pride brought his fall.
6. Verse 20; God speaks with Balaam, giving him an opportunity to pass the test.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

- a. "If the men come to call you, rise and go."
 - b. Balaam rose with no mention of the men calling him.
 - c. Another failed test.
7. Verse 22; God's anger was aroused because he went. God is ready to kill him and Balaam has no understanding of God's feelings toward him because of his sin.
- a. This prophet was never intimate with God.
 - b. Balaam did not even know when God was angry with him.
 - c. Balaam did not understand truth: Gifts and callings are without repentance.
 - d. Balaam only knew God through his gift. Where are we in this area?
8. God again is merciful, hoping Balaam will repent of his way, sending the Angel of the Lord.
- a. The donkey saves his life by turning aside from the path. The donkey knew his master was on the wrong path; amazing.
 - b. Donkey discerns the spirit world more so than a prophet blinded by lust for riches, power, and position.
9. Why would this Prophet who inquires of the Lord, not know about Israel?
- a. Why would he try to move God's hand against the apple of His eye?
 - b. Blindness and deception caused by sin.
 - c. If Balaam were intimate with God, he would have known about Israel.
10. Verse 28; the donkey speaks. Wow, when has this happened before? Is this guy dull, or what? Not only does the donkey speak, but it carries on a conversation with Balaam (the real donkey).
- a. Balaam is still so dull, not realizing what the Lord is up to, so the Lord opens his eyes to see the angel.
 - b. Sin truly does dull our seeing and hearing.

ADVANCED PROPHETIC TRAINING
LEVEL III PITFALLS

11. Balaam then does what is expected of him; false repentance.
 - a. "I have sinned. If it displease You, I will turn back"
 - b. Another failed test.

12. This guy is bent on destruction. Why?
 - a. People pleaser vs. God pleaser
 - b. Love of money.

"You cannot serve God and mammon"

Motive + Action = Deeds

Remember God confirms His Word, not His Prophets

13. Balaam went on to prophesy good true words about Israel, but led them to sin, counseling Balak to tempt them with immoral women.
 - a. Later Balaam was destroyed by Israel; tragic ending for a gifted man.

14. Because of the strength of the prophetic gift and it's place in the heart of God, it becomes, potentially, the most destructive gift if the heart of the recipient is not continually being cleansed and renewed through the Word of God.
 - a. Lack of accountability and submission to authority are the very worst enemies of the Prophet.
 - b. The one called to see and hear for others struggles most with seeing and hearing for himself.
 - c. This is God's safety check valve for prophets. Creating dependency upon mentors and oversights from non-prophets to speak into their lives!

15. The Greatest Keys to Effective Prophetic Ministry:
 - a. Intimacy with Jesus.
 - b. Accountability and submission to authority.
 - c. Interdependence with the body of Christ