

DISCOVERING YOUR DESTINY #4

Introduction: Last week we looked at “God’s gifted people”.

- They responded to God’s call on their life.
- They are prepared to grow in their relationship with Jesus and to using the gifts given to them.
- Apostles:
 - Had a **father’s heart**
 - Cared for people, sometimes with tears
 - Released people into ministry.
 - Had a **strong spiritual** encounter with Jesus, sometimes through a vision of resurrected Jesus.
 - Had a heart to **plant churches**
 - Always looking out for opportunities.
 - Great **patience / perseverance** to stick it out when the going gets tough.
 - Supernatural signs:
 - Healing
 - Demonic deliverance
 - Wonders that baffle
 - Miracles that shake people up.
- All gifting has been **given by Jesus**.
 - There is a **difference between** moving in the gifts, and an office of apostle, prophet, pastor, teacher or evangelist.

1. When God Speaks

(a) When we **first believed**:

- We responded to a “call”
 - A drawing
 - A revelation
- We just knew we had to say “YES” to Jesus.

(b) **Born Again:**

- We are once again connected to God through Jesus.
- We begin to recognise the good Shepherd's voice (John 10:27)
- God speaks primarily through His written Word.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- God-inspired.

2. God Speaks through Prophecy of "NOW" Word.

1 Corinthians 14:1 *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.*

- Love
- Desire spiritual gifts – why?
- Prophecy
 - Prophecy is the testimony of Jesus' heart for His people.
 - Speaks generally into a person's life or situation.
 - Prophecy can also relate to future events.
- Word of knowledge: information given supernaturally by the Holy Spirit
 - More specific in nature and may relate to past or present circumstances.

Guidelines:

1 Corinthians 14:3; 8 *but everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort...if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?*

- Strengthening – build up
- Encouragement
- Comfort

Acts 15:32 *Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.*

- Operating in prophecy does NOT make a prophet, but all prophets operate with the gift of prophecy.

3. How do Prophets Operate

- In the **OT**, the word “seer” is another name for prophet.
 - “seer” – one who sees

2 Chronicles 9:29 *As for the other events of Solomon’s reign, from beginning to end, are they not written in the records of Nathan the prophet, in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer concerning Jeroboam son of Nebat?*

- Nathan was god’s spokesman to the world
- Iddo was associated with visions
- Ahijah prophecy – future events

Jeremiah 1:11-14 *The word of the Lord came to me: ‘What do you see, Jeremiah?’*

‘I see the branch of an almond tree,’ I replied.

The Lord said to me, ‘You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.’

The word of the Lord came to me again: ‘What do you see?’

‘I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north,’ I answered.

The Lord said to me, ‘From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land...’

- What did God ask Jeremiah to do?
- Prophets see and hear
 - Prophet (“pheromeni”) is a technical word used to denote a ship whose sails were to catch the wind.

4. Catching the Wind.

Ezekiel 3:1-4 *And he said to me, 'Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.' So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.*

Then he said to me, 'Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.' So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

He then said to me" 'Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them...'

- Position yourself before the Lord
 - Make time
 - Feed on the word
 - It will be sweet to you
 - Be filled.
- Digesting spiritual food dissolves the boundaries between heaven and earth in the same way that the stomach breaks down food and dissolves it into the body.
 - Go and speak my words.

Development of Prophetic Gifting:

- Born again
- Baptised in the spirit
- Beginning to flow in the gift of prophecy
- Becoming fluent in local gatherings
- Recognised by the wider church as a prophet.

Conclusion:

Ephesians 4:11-16 *So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to **equip** his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be **built up** until we all reach **unity in the faith** and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become **mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow** to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and **builds itself up** in love, as **each part does its work**.*

Bibliography:

- Rick Renner “Apostles and Prophets”
- “God Questions” Bible App
- Bible Odyssey