

Personal Prophecy

Concepts from Dr. Bill Hamon's book, "Prophets and Personal Prophecy"

The prophet brings illumination and further specifics about the Word of God. The gift of prophecy is to bring edification, exhortation and comfort to the Church. Personal prophecy brings confirmation and witness to that which a person has sensed in their spirit. Every word needs to be witnessed and confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses. (2 Cor. 13:1). Personal prophecy must never become a substitute for an individual's responsibility and privilege of hearing God's voice for himself. God is more anxious to talk to us than we are ready to listen.

The word Logos is the word that we use to describe scripture. God's inspired word. The Logos is the same as God: the same yesterday and today and forever. The Logos Word is settled in heaven forever. It is creative, self-fulfilling, powerful, true, inerrant, infallible, complete and life giving. It is the absolute standard by which all other expressions, concepts, revelations, doctrines, preaching and prophecies are measured.

The rhema word is the timely, Holy Spirit inspired word from the Logos (Scriptures) that brings life, power and faith to perform and fulfill it. The Logos never changes or fails but the rhema word can fail to come to pass because the people who hear it do not understand, interpret, believe, obey, respond, wait upon, or act upon it according to God's will or way.

Personal prophecy means God's revelation of His thoughts and intents to a particular person, family or group. It is specific information coming from the mind of God for a specific situation, an inspired word directed to a certain audience. A personal prophecy is a conditional word and will fail to come true if the conditions stated in it are not done.

Some of the most prejudice against personal prophecy has come from presumptuous words given in the area of sickness. This is because the prophet speaks from the Logos (scriptures) and not a true rhema that they have heard from the Holy Spirit. He speaks from his convictions based on what scripture says about healing and not a true rhema word. It is better if the prophet says that I believe rather than this is what God showed me. If a person is personally and emotionally involved in a situation it is better that they not give a personal prophetic word.

True prophecies bring blessings, prosperity and miracles. False, immature, or presumptuous prophecies bring destruction, confusion, and failure.

If God keeps talking to you about things you are going to be doing in the future, it means that if you are obedient you will have many years to live and do the will of God.

Personal prophecy can play an important role in helping believers come to know their place and function in the Church. When God speaks something, it is decreed in Heaven. It is impregnated into the spirit of the person receiving the word, and it carries with it the creative, life-giving power of self-fulfillment. Personal prophecy is one of the ordained methods for planting the seed of ministry and gifts within an individual. Prophets have the strongest anointing and ministry for impartation and activation of gifts and ministry.

Is it scriptural for a person to go to a prophet and expect to receive a specific prophetic word of direction, instruction or confirmation? The answer is YES. God approves of this practice as long as it does not become a substitute for us seeking God on our own. However, God will not respond to foolish or insincere requests. He will not necessarily give a specific answer to just any and every request. Normally God only reveals prophetically those things about the future that we need to know in order to make proper preparation.

Personal prophecy concerning romance and marriage. These are the most dangerous areas to receive personal prophecy. Rarely will the Holy Spirit use personal prophecy to activate romance or direct who you should marry. If it is meant to be God will tell both parties. One may know weeks or months before the other but will be given confirmation in their own heart as they seek God. As one is considering marriage, they should seek pastoral counseling and prophetic confirmation from two or three sources. When a prophetic word is from the Lord, it will come to pass regardless of the seeming impossibilities.

Our decisions should be based on God's word, will and way. Determine God's Word on the matter, His specific will about it and His way to fulfill it. If God's Word is a no on the matter go no further. If it is yes, proceed to determining His will. If that is not clear at the time it may mean to wait. If your desire is unscriptural, improper, illegal, or immoral according to divine principles then you are wasting your time asking God to let you do it. The Holy Spirit will never tell

you to do something contrary to the nature of God or the Holy Scriptures. In (Ps. 37:4) that the Lord will give us the desires of heart that are according to His will. God will cause us to desire what He wants us to have and as we trust in Him, He will cause that prophetically inspired desire to come to pass.

We should seek wise counsel from mature and spiritually discerning people before making major decisions. Remember the principle of seeking confirmation of the decision from two to three people. The way of God includes His timing, methods, and necessary means to do it; the who, what, when, where and how, but not always the why. Often the way of God has to be waited upon to be determined.

Prophetic Principles:

1. Before great personal prophecies come to pass, things nearly always get worse before they get better.
2. Delays are not denials.
3. Promotion and prosperity come from the Lord for His people.
4. The purpose of the divinely planned process for procurement means more to God than the end product, for the maturing of the person means more to God than his financial prosperity.
5. Proper biblical success principles must be patiently and persistently practiced in order to produce what has been prophetically promised.
6. The "Saul syndrome" of stubbornness, self-deception, self-justification, and blame shifting must be subdued and submitted to Christ, or it will sabotage the personal prophetic promise of great prosperity.
7. Misinterpretation and wrong application of personal prophecy will pervert God's purpose and stop the prophetic promise from ever coming to pass.
8. The "Balaam motivation" of greed and gain, power and popularity will hinder God's blessing on His prophetic promise to a person or project.

God's timetable:

Immediately often means from one day to three years.

Very soon means one to ten years.

Now or this day means one to forty years.

I will without a definite time designation means that God will act at some time in the person's life if he is obedient.

Soon was the term that Jesus used to describe the time of His second coming which is now over two thousand years.

The nature of personal prophecy:

God only reveals what we need to know in order to do His will more perfectly at that particular time and place. Sometimes God will speak about our ultimate ministry, but will not tell us about the process of trials and other ministries we will have in the meantime; Because prophecy is often incomplete, we should not conclude that God's silence on the matter is His approval.

Personal prophecy is progressive. It unfolds and expands gradually over years with each prophetic word adding new information and revelation. As the details of God's will and way accumulate, He slowly unveils His full plan for our lives and His means for bringing them to pass.

All personal prophecies are conditional with their fulfillment dependent on human behavior. Others are unconditional and will take place no matter what else happens. Conditional prophecies can be cancelled, altered, reversed, or diminished.

How to properly respond to personal prophecy.

Do not despise prophecy as it is designed to edify, exhort and comfort and to make God more personal to us. It builds faith, makes God's love more real, and brings peace where there may have been fear and anxiety. It imparts grace and patience for endurance and long suffering until God's word is fulfilled in our lives.

We are to judge the prophecy but not necessarily the prophet. We should not be quick to judge someone a false prophet if the word does not seem to apply to us or is inaccurate. New Testament prophets are not held to the same standard as the Old Testament ones were as he may be ignorant, immature or presumptuous. We should though look at the character of the prophet. There are prophets whose words are accurate but whose lives have problems.

When we receive a prophetic word, we should record, read and meditate on it. We should note that a first interpretation is not always a true application. It may bear witness with our spirit or it may be a new thought or concept that we have never had before. It may not witness to us if it goes against our current belief system. Do not do what your spirit doesn't witness to --- wait. Do not do anything differently unless definitely directed to and continue doing what you have been

doing before you received the word. On the other hand, when you receive a prophecy with specific instructions and an anointing for immediate action, follow the instructions.

The attitudes that we should have when responding to prophecy are faith, obedience, patience, humility, meekness and submission. Pride can hinder personal prophecy from coming to pass. Full humble obedience automatically brings activation of the prophetic word. Nothing can stop the word from working once you have obeyed in every detail.

Hindrances to the fulfillment of personal prophecy:

Unbelief, preconceptions about life, ourselves, self-image, theology, established opinions, emotions, willful desire or a personal ambition, impatience, negligence, procrastination, slothfulness, pride, disappointment, disillusionment, blame shifting, self-deception, and people pleasing.