

God's call of prophecy.

Base Lines:

A general discussion regarding the gift and office of prophecy.

The baseline may require you to dust off your understanding a bit so you can focus on what Jesus has done in/with you when you **Truly** – emphasis – **Truly** accepted His Gift of salvation. That gift includes an ability to walk in the gift of prophecy and for some the office of the prophet in the body of Christ, in truth.

Information.

As I enter commentary within the scriptural references I will use **this color text** to set emphasis to the fact it is commentary. I will at times highlight scriptural text to emphasize it **using this color to do that**. Additionally, unless otherwise stated all Scriptural reference quotes are from the King James Version. Where other translations are used it is noted for clarity. Should you have issues with the colors I have chosen email me at seeker@godsprovision.org

Ezekiel 13:1-8

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, hear ye the word of the LORD; thus saith the LORD God; woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. You have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge of the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. They have seen vanity, and lying divination, saying, the LORD saith: and the LORD has not seen them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a divination, whereas ye say the LORD saith it; albeit not spoken? Therefore thus saith the LORD God; because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the LORD God.

The words that I'm saying now in no way is intended to try to instill fear, but rather to share with those who are exploring God's gift of prophecy to let them see some of what it took for me to get comfortable in the gift/office of prophecy in Jesus Christ.

With regard to the false prophets, often times when encountering self professed prophets, I see the inclination to be more like the Old Testament prophets as opposed to what Jesus established in the New Testament of which Jesus is the type, with regard to modern day prophesy. Jesus established the vein of post Christ prophecy. Jesus and his final sacrifice changed the prophetic landscape. God's prophecy didn't change but its audience changed due to the sacrifice of God's only begotten son Jesus. The bible agrees as it specifically states that it is our "more sure word of prophecy".

2 Peter 1:19

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

The prevailing message of the bible was the promise and then the fulfillment of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:46

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

John 6:45

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Acts 13:33

God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

Jesus Christ has been given all judgment; Jesus Christ is a Christian's righteousness, justification, sanctification, atonement of sin. A complete package of God's grace expressed by his love for his people through his son Jesus who is God manifest in the flesh.

God's Judgment

John 5:22

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

John 8:58

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

1Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Your Justification

Romans 3:26

To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 4:5

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

Your Righteousness

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Your Sanctification

1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:10

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*.

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Your Atonement

Romans 5:11

And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Jesus is not of the world just as you are not of the world as a Christian. Additionally you now have the Holy Spirit, who brings unto remembrance every word God has spoken to you. A personal relationship with God; no more running to the prophet as Ahab and Saul and the saints of old because the Holy Spirit will teach you all things. So prophecy hasn't changed but rather the audience has changed because of the works of God.

God speaks to his people and to the lost with grace afforded by His sons sacrifice for all men, even those who will reject his light unto hell.

Titus 2:11-14

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For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

1Timothy 4:10

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

John 3:16-20

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

So to whom do we look when we seek an example of prophecy in action?

The answer is Jesus.

Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Luke 4:24

And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Luke 13:33

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Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the *day* following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem.

With a basic understanding that all Christians enjoy the gift of prophecy according to their faith, and that the gift of prophecy is a tool that God affords us as he sends us out to witness to the lost, to assure, reassure, establish and reestablish Christians when they are feeling insecure or confused about what path they should take. For analogy's sake God uses you the tool of choice and adds a new drill bit for his purpose.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. **But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.**

While prophesy does provide some instruction as to what path to take or at times to give advice to an individual as to which way to turn, one has to not confuse prophesy with Word of Knowledge. Prophesy is, of itself, a means to bring light onto the Word of God to reach, emphasize, reestablish and reassert a particular sound biblical doctrine or sound biblical principle of gospel to the church body, it can also be an offer of reassurance a vision from God to what will come to pass given a chosen path taken, spoken by his direct revelation, sometimes an encouragement for the body or an individual such as a edification word of Love for a person or congregation not some flim-flam side show of soothsaying.

Oftentimes prophets who walk in the gift of the office of prophecy will find themselves side by side with pastors and apostles and teachers providing them insight or direction based on God's input and what they have received in the form of guidance through meditation, study of the word or by God giving specific instructions to the prophet so that it may benefit the body of Christ. Conversations can take the "hey, the Lord has been showing me something. . ." or a member of God's church can come to a prophet and ask him or her to consult God on a topic, while they do the same, for the benefit of self, the congregation or ministry thus edifying each other with a confirmation or more counsel on a subject/effort/ministry/work.

While the office of the prophet and the gift of prophecy have many things in common the office of the prophet is a service to the body of Christ and usually presents itself when the persons in that office are present around the other leaders of the church. While the gift of prophecy in a Christian can be present at any time so it can open up the hearts of the lost or to reassure the body of Christ as a whole or present some scriptural truth or illuminate some scriptural truth that the Lord would have the group or individual think about.

The primary difference has to do with the authority of the office. Just as all Christians are called to preach the gospel not all Christians hold the office of pastor. Just as all pastors teach, not all pastors hold the office of teacher. Just as all pastors lead all congregations all pastors are not apostles. It is a question of authority based on a calling for that person by God. Many times, because the majority of the church is reluctant to heed their call, because they fear either man or they fear the responsibility of the call God has placed on them, we often find that the people who are willing to accept their calling are required by the local body's need to span church office boundaries, being double tasked; pastors who end up being tasked to be teachers or to be apostles or to be prophets when in reality God has also provided those for the body of Christ right in the assembly that those pastor's lead. Christ has, for the blessing and edification of the body of Christ called folks to those offices of faith that the Father God has chosen individually, such that all that remains is for someone to act in agreement with what God has placed upon them.

An example of a Christian prophesy in agreement with 1 Corinthians 12, would be an occurrence of prophecy in the body or a meeting or group of people, to speak what the Lord

has put on their heart as word of edification or a blessing for the church or an admonition for that matter.

The office of the prophet can sometimes take the form of Joseph when he established the storehouse in Egypt. The office of the prophet can sometimes take the way of Jeremiah, when he wept and interceded. The office of the prophet can sometimes take on the way of Nehemiah when he rebuilt and restored Jerusalem. The office of the prophet can also take the form of Elijah, with a standing up in authority before the enemies of the congregation, confronting the enemies of the community speaking God's heart to them in the hope that they'll change.

Today's prophets just as prophets of old also act as a vanguard before the body of Christ. Standing amongst the world and proclaiming God's desire for them. Prophets can stand before the enemy of the church and protect the sheep from false prophets and false teachers in fact any false doctrine or teaching. They also can literally stand between physical harm of a Christian or a congregation calling upon God in their relationship to defend in peace.

The office of the prophet is not designed to beat the church body to death however oftentimes in our modern church people walk around forgetting that the gift of prophet in the form of the office of the prophet is a blessing to the body, not an errant additional taskmaster.

The easy flow with which this prophesy moves often times can spark revival in the form of worship, it can spark peace between people and a church that may be struggling, it can spark freedom the release of corporate prayer, I've seen this form of prophesy bring an entire body to tears, tears of joy.

The easy relationship between God's people and their God fosters a fertile ground for the gift and office of the prophet to operate. It isn't forced and it doesn't become a burden it is a free flowing wonderful gift from God for his people.

Many people continue to fear prophesy though because it doesn't operate within the finite box of experience based on their eyes and ears and would require that they have faith that perhaps God might choose them to speak as well as speak to them; just as they like to banish other offices of the church such as the apostle to the books of Acts, as well as banished the healing out of the body of Christ both physically and mentally, as well as the ministry of

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miracles to the book of Acts and in general just attempt to avoid any kind of gift of God that is present today out of the confusion and fear out of the fruit of their lack of faith and understanding.

This practice often limits congregations causing the fire of their church to be still in ineffectual suffering in difficulties that they really need not face. A congregation asleep facing temptation after temptation. As it is written:

1 Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

You'll note that this is "if need be", is not God's desire for us to suffer through temptations. It's our unwillingness to release our souls to him; it is this that causes us the primary issue, we reserve the right to suffer in different places as we choose. Kinda silly! But yet we do it.

Called to it?

Some of you are experiencing the call of prophecy. God has and will continue to impress upon you the gift and I would suggest to you that no matter how reluctant you are you will be unable to avoid the trademark character traits of a prophet.

I know when I first started to see what his call on my life was; I was extremely reluctant to walk it because frankly I was skeptical of such gifts. Too many hot air bags blowing their self righteous horns in churches today and I wanted no part of it. I decided I would be open to God's words and insight but would defer for a time to others that were more comfortable with the gift and office.

I started noticing that there was a call for me when I would go to church or meetings where folks would exercise the gift of prophecy. I would pass through a street corner and feel urged to proclaim God's love and desire to bless the people there also I would suddenly be stirred to speak in meetings and such but again because of my skepticism I would remain silent so deferring to another who would accept God's invitation to be a blessing, sure enough someone would pop up and begin to speak.

What amazed me at first is what they would say was what God had impressed upon me to share before they even opened their mouths. I would hear them literally saying what God has

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given me to say and that made me wonder if perhaps I needed to think about speaking instead of deferring.

I found a boldness to go where others wouldn't having an assurance God was with me. To stand in places other folks would not dare go, to be around things other Christians would shy away from. Not in arrogance but in what at first I thought was an unusual calm of safety. I felt safe where others felt concerned. I felt bold where others felt cautious, I felt compelled where others felt no call to move there. It was a very difficult time for me because I could not understand why others didn't share the fire I had burning inside of me.

I often speak of this thick curtain in my head that separates my calm rational mind from the storm of God's awesome fire, the storm so pure and strong and full of power that God lets out to me slowly so as not to blow my head off with it. He opens that curtain and lets me sit in his fire and it energizes me and stirs me and causes me to dance before him. It is always there rolling and thundering behind the curtain, the ultimate absolute power of God's love and fire. I feel it and do not fear it. It comforts me in times of need and empowers me in times of battle and blesses me with peace in time of tribulation. It roars behind the curtain in my spirit, in my mind, in my soul while I walk in what he has allowed past. At times it amazes me as I move without thought to accomplish something he has directed me to do, carefree. Understand – without carefulness, careless. Free, pure live or die with God. This is true freedom that I can't explain to you fully because it is something that flows from God in power, I yearn for it as I walk. I seek it because it blesses me and reminds me what a mighty God we Love.

People stand and speak and the words fly to God or drop dead on the floor. They act in truth and bless or they act in silliness and everyone wonders why they spoke. True prophecy isn't fickle it isn't a formula it isn't a method; it's the pure unadulterated power of God.

One thing I learned is sometimes people don't realize when God is done speaking. Some folks would stand up and start speaking what God had put on my heart and then all at once I would feel God was done but the person speaking would continue speaking sometimes for a long time.

I wondered if maybe I wasn't hearing it all or if maybe I was not really operating in that gift /office because I would not get the whole speech just the beginning part. I often puzzled and

asked God to clear that up for me as it happened many times. Until one day I decided I would ask God why it was happening in truth.

Why Lord did he continue to speak as if it was you when in my spirit I knew you were done speaking? Why Lord did she continue after you were finished speaking? Why Lord am I missing some of your message?

I refused to open my mouth until I had an answer. I hate spooky, spooky Christians wear me slap out. I love them and they are Christians but they seem to make the faith all spooky. Hyper spiritualism is a better description of that. You see I felt I would be being spooky if I opened my mouth because I apparently was missing much of the message.

I was respectful of my God in that I considered the consequences of saying "God said" when it really wasn't God. I was not going to risk my relationship with the only thing I care about in the world, my God.

I feel the need to explain something to you about my relationship with my wife and children. Now I love my family but in truth all good things in my life come from God so I care about God and then in turn love his gifts of family etc. . . . I know all things belong to God and He alone matters. In service to Him you will never do disservice to a loved one or stranger nor would you count a wife or child of yours as anything less than a precious gift. However; All I care about is God, because in caring only for God I care for all He has given me as well. I hope you understand. If not feel free to email me at Seeker@godsprovision.org

Anyway, there was no way I was going to cross up my God after he had saved me. I literally read and took for example in the bible where Isaiah was purified and sure of God's word in him after a coal was pressed to his lips from the altar of God.

Isaiah 6:5-8 Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

I wanted to be sure that God's words were what I was speaking not some spooky rendition of it or worse words from me. I literally asked him to proof my lips, to make them true for him. That left the issue of the message. Why was it that sometimes when "prophets" would stand up and speak or when the "gift of prophecy" would present itself; as I was informed by the rest of the folks at the church or meeting, didn't I hear the same message or at times even any message at all except some folks flapping their jaws and saying nothing? Worse, why would I sometimes disagree so strongly with what was spoken it was all I could do to keep silent? Why would I sometimes have to leave the meeting because what was spoken seemed so very wrong? It was perplexing at first because I desired to be blessed by God using me how he wanted and it seemed that I was missing something. I cried out to my God to help me. Of course, He did.

God started to speak with me as if he was a coach or a counselor, when someone would stand to speak "prophecy" God would provide me with the message He desired to have spoken to His congregation or meeting or whatever. He would tell me word for word what He intended to say through the person who would stand to speak.

As the person would speak sometimes they would use different words or phrasing and God would tell me that the message remained intact. Other times God would tell me "the word was changed and it changes the message from my perfect intention, do not change my intention" I said yes Lord, I will remember to guard my lips from that. Sometimes God would say "she has let her emotions shift the message and it has affected the word and changed it from my perfect intention, do not change my intentions" I again said yes Lord I will guard my lips from that as well.

Sometimes a person would stand and I had no word from God in my spirit and so when that person stood up or begin to speak and say "Thus says the Lord" or whatever; God would say "This is not me" to which I wondered to Him; Father why do you let them speak so? Many times his answer was "the intention of their heart is to hear me and to love me and share me with others, I chose to have grace on them because of the heart I see in them" I said "thank you Lord for your grace I am sure Father I will need it" .

Sometimes, when folks would speak and it wasn't God but the person speaking, I felt anger a strong desire to cry out for them to be still. I felt a strong anger so strong at times I couldn't

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get my head around it, so I asked God what that was all about. God answered me with “do not allow my passion to be made imperfect by you assuming it to yours.” I was like huh? God spoke again and said “do not assume to your person my anger, you are required to love and I will deal with those who need correction.”

The result of that was when someone who was speaking from self would start God would tell me it was in error and then when God wanted me to tell them to be still; I had no anger. I simply new it was in error and would then be able to let them know in Love and not anger. God had taught me some of where God stops and I begin.

This is a relationship issue. The more time you spend with God in this the simpler it becomes. It's not so complicated that you can't get it straight, it's not spooky. God wants you to be the messenger to edify yourself and all his people. He is also prepared to give you grace while you mature in His gifts.

God's word can contain strong correction but you need to separate yourself from his frustration or anger and simply love them enough to deliver the message.

Avoid assuming his emotional position; you color the word he speaks through you when you do it. That doesn't mean God, when He chooses will not use you because you feel his passion but relaying his passion requires knowing His Love is perfect. He will teach you if you listen. God also I have discovered, will give you grace while you stretch to His gift.

From the moment I asked him for wisdom with regard to this gift that we call prophecy he has never ceased to speak to me. Even as I write this, I find God poking at me to correct a phrase or to make a better effort to communicate his heart on this topic. I enjoy my God's corrections and enjoy my time with my God.

God started to tell me that sometimes the reason folks would continue to speak as if it was still God speaking is the changes made in them based on the word he blessed them to share. As a result of the word He gave them to speak they would change inside and that change would come out of their mouth. The only miss was it was the result of “God Spoke” but not God spoke. I promised to guard my lips from that error. It was at that moment God informed me that HE would be guarding my lips if my relationship was right with HIM. I stood corrected

and spent many hours working that issue and error out of my spirit. You are a messenger, you are a tool, do your job. Deliver the message and be still and Let the word work.

Suddenly, I understood and was able to discern the difference between what was complete God delivered prophecy, partial delivered prophecy, false prophecy, well intentioned words. You can to. Some basic things to ask God about:

1. How will I know when you stop?
2. How will I be able to not color the word you give me with myself?
3. How will I handle the emotion that comes from God's word flowing through me?
4. How will I deal with false prophets?
5. How will I know when to leave well intentioned words go without declaring them not from God's lips to our ears?
6. Who owns the message?

These questions should be high on your list of stuff to talk to God about as you walk in this gift/office. I'll testify as to the answers and things he showed me as I learned to walk with him in this.

How will I know when you stop? I asked God that question after seeing hundreds of folks keep going right past where God stopped, sometimes messing up the message. He responded to me honesty, trust and humility.

Now this letter isn't a prophet's guide, it's a testimony of some stuff God shared with me as I walk with Him. Learning to be honest with His message can be an interesting road to walk. Imagine speaking to a congregation of people you love and having God give you a word that exhorts them strongly to the point that if they fail to see the truth of it they will be scattered by the enemy. You see the importance; God has shown you the result if they fail to listen. Your emotion wants to run, you want to add emphasis. I suggest you understand first, they are not your people, you however belong to God. I suggest you learn that what he has given you is a gift of absolute truth, don't violate it with your emotion, it is ok to love but do not condition the message through your emotion.

I am going to tell you that honesty to the word God gives you to speak is important. Learn to speak exactly what he gives you as He gives it to you and to whom He gives it to you for. I will

share with you the scripture God used when he made his call official in my life to me. I have highlighted it in this color for emphasis. I have included the surrounding scripture for context. This scripture demonstrates honesty to God's word, read the scripture in context to understand fully:

1 Kings 22:5-28

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king. And Jehoshaphat said, *Is there* not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, *There is* yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten *hither* Micaiah the son of Imlah. And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them. And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the king's hand. *And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.* So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver *it* into the hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but *that which is* true in the name of the LORD? And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him

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on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this *fellow* in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

Micaiah was honest with God's word. He didn't shout or mock he simply delivered the truth. The principle is this; do you love them more than God? Do you have God's wisdom? That's the honesty of it.

God loves them more than you do.

God has the wisdom you lack to see the whole picture.

If you allow your emotion to interfere with the message you alter God's intention.

Ask Jonah. He tried to be emotional; nevertheless he eventually became honest with the word of God thus saving an entire Kingdom.

Jonah 1:1-2

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Trust is the next way to stop when God is done speaking. It takes trust to step up and say "yes Lord, use me". So why would you feel God would leave his word incomplete? Why would you feel you were not ready to deliver it, if God picked you to use to reveal it to his people? Why

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would you feel the need to clarify it rather than just speak it, if you are able to accept God chose you to speak it? Why wouldn't you be willing to stop when you have no more words? If you have no more words stop. Trust God to deliver his message complete.

Humility, understanding your part in all of this; your part is to be a messenger. That's all. It's not your wisdom, your fancy words, your understanding of scripture or your theological view rather it is God trusting you to speak and giving you all you need to do just that and no more. It's not your wisdom, you're not so smart. You're just faithful to a gift and/or your office. You're not special, just precious. It is a very strong honor for God to trust his sheep to someone he knows will speak only his heart. Be humble that the King of Kings has allowed you to do so. Remember, don't beat the sheep.

Something else interesting about Jonah is he rejected the call of God to deliver a word. Eventually you will come to understand that's foolish. If it is the exercising of the gift or office of prophecy, when God has an illumination of his word to deliver to people he cares about he will get it delivered. Don't be like Jonah at first hiding from God so that the devil can mess with you. Rather run to God, enjoy his word through you.

It's not a process to prophecy it is a call, whether in gift or office the call is from God and it requires only that your mouth deliver what God has given you to say. The source of things God has placed in you can start in different places. You can be reading scripture and God will say "pay attention" and suddenly the scripture will deliver a message to you for delivery to the body of Christ. They are always simple and never end with a condemnation. God is pretty emphatic about providing his folks with a word of exhortation in the form of prophecy and sometimes the message can be very strong, however; I have never seen a true message of God given this way that didn't provide a way for it to not be condemnation but rather "illumination to choice, to repent and chose light instead of darkness".

Some will not accept what I have just typed, I submit to you to study prophecy in the bible, you will see how Jesus prophesied and then understanding he is our leader who told us "follow me". You see; the more sure word of prophecy which contains the heart, Word, intention, law of God needs no man to condemn through their words.

God has provided the measure of man in his more sure word of prophecy "The Bible" and in that is all the evidence of what will occur if someone doesn't repent and believe the Gospel.

It is a trap some folks fall into set by the devil, the speaking of curses to condemnation is not a prophet's task. Prophecy is given to edify the body and correct the body, it is written:

Ephesians 4:11-13

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Don't submit yourself to anyone that does not follow this scriptural principle of the purpose of the prophet in the New Covenant.

Many folks call themselves prophets, in fact many are called to prophecy but because they have a lack of understanding they fall into the trap of becoming weapons from hell in condemnation and accusation. Don't do that. Remember edification is correction with compassion and grace and goodness which lead men unto repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Some feel that prophets are no longer used or needed. Some feel that they passed away after the church of Acts. I would submit to you that we are and will remain the church of Acts and we are the last generation and that it has been the last days ever since Jesus said "It is finished".

It is the missing basic principles that confuse the latter details of doctrines. It is that lack of fundamental foundational truth that clouds interpretations and causes men and women to create philosophies and traditions not after Christ.

How can you come to the correct understanding when you miss the fundamental beginning? The answer is you can't. So many philosophies of man not after Christ exist because of a lack

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of basic fundamental understandings of Honesty, Faith, and Relationship with our God. When that is broken you will never be able to see the end from the beginning without error.

Another way God will provide you a message can be as you are watching the world go by and all of a sudden God says “watch, pay attention” so you do and what you see brings to you a message from Him an illumination based on observation. Again deliver it faithfully.

Yet another way is through your prayer, God will speak to you clearly a message and after a time you learn to write them down. At first you may not but after a while you do because it will bless you to record what he said to you and to whom it was intended. The spoken message is a clear illumination of something God wants to edify his church with.

Sometimes you will be listening to someone who is speaking in tongues and God will give you interpretation or give it to another and that message will trigger a message from God from you for the edification of His church.

Sometimes the message is an exhortation, sometimes a comfort, sometimes a direction. A message can be general or it can be very specific, full of detail and direction. Don't worry, God will sort it out and have you speak exactly what you need to speak. If it is God, this is always true.

It becomes a natural thing to walk and hear him until finally it is just as if it was always intended to be a open channel between you and the Father, the reason is because that's always been the Fathers intention for it to be an open relationship constant – instant- free for ALL Christians.

The next bit is exciting because once your ears can hear you begin to hear him in all things you do. Then if you are like I was when I came to understand this call, you get to learn to pay attention to who the message is addressed to. Sometimes in our zeal to hear God we erroneously apply the conviction through a message of prophecy God has given us, intended for us, to the whole congregation or vice versa. Learning to distinguish whom the message is intended for is a wonderful way to increase your relationship with God. I'll try to testify some of what I have learned.

First, as the deliverer of a message remember the Word of God is a two edged sword. I have learned to drag that sword across my chest as he is speaking it to me so that I will understand how folks react to it when I speak it. At first I didn't know to do that so I would be caught off guard by folks reactions to the word God had given me for them and it often hurt me emotionally because while I was learning; a process that never stops by the way, I would sometimes take people's reactions to what God has given me, personally. Anger, sorrow, sometimes they would yell at me and accuse me and I have to admit it made me angry with God for using me.

This brings us to the next trap of the devil. Making the blessing of prophecy a curse, the devil will try to get you to do two things; among others. First he will try to convince you that you own the message, it's your message, it has something to do with your holiness or your specialness or your whooped doo mojo. Secondly, he will try to convince you the people who get upset are upset with you. They hate you or are angry at you.

These are lies straight from hell and they are designed to shut your mouth. It took me a while to learn the second one. As for the first point; for me I understood that the message wasn't mine. I didn't take any ownership of it. The message clear and pure came from God and I knew right from the start that I had to make sure I didn't color it or influence it with my flesh; according to the ability of my faith which grows continually.

The second point however was my difficult one after my life of rejection and life of being alone as a child, I flourished in my new found faith and fellowship. I reveled in the acceptance of fellow Christians as we shared the common love of God, it was new and fresh and wonderful. So imagine my reaction when as I was being faithful to God's call to speak; people began to reject me. People would get mad with me; people I loved and desired to fellowship with would walk away. I began to feel like Elijah, unwelcome and persecuted.

Well my first reaction was to seek other fellow Christians that I trusted and knew loved me. It seemed however that they were never home or available when I needed to be comforted in this rejection or anger given me because of being faithful to God's call to speak. Additionally the list grew shorter and shorter. I remember hollering at God that I didn't want any more of the supposed gift.

Needless to say he didn't stop calling me to speak. God simply drew me into his Word and showed me those who had walked before me. I always found it amusing that there is never serious discussions on this topic among Christians until God starts using you in a gift and then you will find no shortage of folks who are willing to instruct you on how messed up you are while you're doing it.

God did however introduce me to another person who also walked in the gift in the office of prophet and who was faithful to it. You see I was avoiding the obvious call on my life and denying that what I was experiencing was any more than just a gift. I met this guy earlier eventually realizing God has put him close to me so I could see how God operated in/through him to help me understand how God was operating in/through me. God provided me a moment of clarity one day to see that it would be safe to allow this man to call me friend.

It was a Vineyard church that I had been attending for some time with my family, they were rich in the Spirit and God was doing much good through them. It was here in his church where God first sent word carried by me to individuals in this congregation. It was also this congregation that had started shying away from getting close to me because of the gift God had given me.

Nevertheless, one day this somewhat strange fellow that God had introduced me to before; through him doing what some call "speaking into our lives"; I need to comment here that the words this man spoke to me and my family have always come to pass. He was preaching at this little Vineyard church. He only preached there once that I was aware of and I never heard him preach from that pulpit again but have sat under him in meetings and the like in other places.

Anyway he was preaching and we were about ten minutes into the preach when God hit me on top of the head so hard with a word of prophecy that I thought I would explode if I didn't speak it. I always try to respect order in the church and so I went down to the pulpit at the first opportunity and let him know I had something from God to speak to which he replied "I know but it will have to wait". Now keep in mind my head was going to explode because of the weight of God on me to speak this. I expressed this to him and he again repeated "It will have to wait".

Well I went straight out the doors of the church and shouted to the world what God had given me; an act of self defense because of the weight of the word God had given me, I look back and see that was silly, I could have just asked God to give me peace and he would have but I didn't know you could do that back then.

When I felt well enough and at peace enough to return, I went back into the congregation and listened to the rest of his teaching. The word God gave me still pressing upon me to speak. The service was concluding and a call for ministry at the front of the church went forth and many folks who were blessed by the message went to the front to get prayer.

The man looked at me in my seat and I remember he had a knowing smile on his face and I remember being really upset with him. He motioned that I come to the front and then kind of laughed and smiled and said "I love you brother ask God who that word was for again".

Figuring I had nothing to lose I did, to my chagrin God pointed out a lady that had come down for prayer. I told this fellow who was leading the service that I now knew exactly who it was for and he said go minister it, so I did. That lady was blessed in an amazing way by the word God had given me to speak to her. It changed her life. Not because of me but God's word.

I remember being amazed. Anyway that fellow came over to me afterward and put his hand on my shoulder and laughed a little. I wasn't sure why but it was a friendly laugh so I joined him. We praised God for his gift of blessings for his people. Well because of this I started to watch him as he would minister through the church. Now he wasn't a member of the church leadership and he held no official position in the church but I would watch him minister through the body as we would gather. He also ministered to my family from time to time and as I stated those things he prophesied always came to pass. I also saw him at the men's meetings and then at other interdenominational meetings another friend of mine had arranged; they were basically meetings of pastors from across the banners of Christianity.

You see until this time prophecy had always been very quiet in me. What I mean is that the words God gave me, I would write down and sometimes I would be called to speak to someone and would but it was very quiet. God was maturing me in his gifts and I was learning so much at that time of my walk. I should say you never stop learning.

Well all at once God changed that quietness, it started at first in the men's meetings I attended, God would drop words of prophecy on me for the group and I would speak it and I started to notice some of the fellows distancing themselves from me. I started noticing a lack of invites to prayer meetings and the like. Then God expanded the call to prophecy to the congregation. It was very cool, God was working on all of us there, the church was smoking hot for God and God was using it to minister to the whole community.

I still noted I would be invited less and less to functions. God was doing much Jeremiah and Zechariah type messages for the body of that church and I suppose it convicted many hearts. I knew it did mine on several occasions. Remember, I had learned that it was a two edged sword so I learned to drag that message across my chest to see how I felt before I would speak it to the congregation. Sometimes depending on the nature of the revelation it would be the second just before I spoke it.

One day, God gave me a word to speak to the congregation and that fellow was in attendance that day and It was a strong word of cleaning up our closets in the church so we could move on to the next step God had planned for us as a church. It required examination and conviction and repentance by the congregation and leadership to move us to what God wanted for us next.

I stepped up to the pastor during a break and told him I had a word from God for the congregation, to which he replied . . . " you go easy on them" Well, wanting his acceptance and wanting not to offend him when it came time to speak I did exactly that, I allowed his admonition to alter God's intentions and I remember I felt as if I had vomited on God's people with the lame easy version of that message from God.

I remember thinking my God forgive me and the congregation didn't even miss a beat. I remember walking to the left of the church and getting half way to the back and ending up on my knees weeping in repentance for what I had done. Remember, I told you I understood it was his messages not mine. I had done a horrible thing seeking fellowship of men and ignoring the truth of the message. It was all I could do not to sob out loud; I felt God's disappointment in me.

As I lay there I felt a presence close to me, at first I thought it was my wife, it wasn't it was Paul that strange fellow God had shown me. I don't remember what he said exactly but I remember what he said ministered to me. We met after church and I poured my heart out. I told him the pain I was feeling because of the subtle rejection of my brothers and sisters, I told him of the way people avoided me at church, I told him how angry people would get when I shared what God had given me for them, I told him how clear the message was and how simple God's word had become in my eyes and that I felt I could sit and just hang out with my God. I have no idea how long I complained to him of my woes after God had stated to use me in prophecy. What was remarkable was not Paul listening, it wasn't the fact I felt completely at ease with sharing with this man all my pain, what was remarkable was his response. It changed me; I had a "duh!" moment.

Paul, smiling a big cheesy grin looked me right in the eye and said "welcome to the prophetic" The lights came on in my head, suddenly I felt accepted by God and no longer worried about how the Gift God gave me affected my popularity. It was amazing how free God made me feel based on that simple message God had given Paul to speak to me. It didn't change my desire to be faithful to the message, it didn't change my reverence for God's revelation, it didn't change my love for God's people, it just made it more about God and less about me.

Paul had been a faithful father in God and has spent many hours encouraging me and my family in our call to ministry. I pray I have been faithful to God with what God would have us minister to Paul.

I had been delivered from the trap of the devil set for me in my need to be loved of men more than my concern to be right in God. God had shown me in my vomiting of his message that it was his message not mine; to which I vowed never to color or change his word every again as my faith is able. Learning folks get upset by God's message; since it's not mine they aren't upset with me but rather with the message and then take it out on you because you're the messenger.

You would think people would want to hear stuff God tells folks, I know I do but some folks would rather pretend God doesn't see the stuff his word usually ministers to; so when you deliver it, you get avoided. No worries Jesus loves me and them and we are both blessed by his grace. Being faithful to his call is the point above all.

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It also taught me that I could count on him for comfort. It taught me that God had provided helpers here for all of us in the form of faithful servants however God alone is your comforter. There is freedom in that.

A couple of traps I see folks fall into regarding this gift/office is taking offence. It's like they forget that God is using them sometimes to relay correcting word to folks and that folks will sometimes get upset by that word and take it out on them.

Instead of taking that offence to God they make the mistake of taking it to their heart. That causes them to become very jaded and fearful and reclusive most drop out of churches, avoid large groups. They take the persecution to heart. If you have felt persecuted for God's sake understand God warned you that you would Christian, so why are you surprised. Secondly, where do you take this burden of rejection or pain for whatever, to your heart? Big mistake! Take it to Jesus; He will keep your heart soft. Exactly the way God wants it to be.

You can tell when you get the persecuted prophet syndrome; it's when words coming out of your mouth speak curses and judgment and dissatisfaction rather than edification. You take on an "us versus them" mentality. News flash – we are all US in Christ. We war in the spirit not in the flesh. It is another trap of the devil designed to mute God in you. Don't do it, don't fall into that trap. Keep your excellent spirit, just like Daniel did with his earthly king.

You can always hear these "prophets" because they don't edify. Your measure is; does it bless the people who hear it? Your words of prophecy if they are from God will always bless those who hear it because it is never unto condemnation, never.

How many have heard the folks running around cursing whole nations, speaking generalities that make the faith of men a lie. An example would be those who would curse a nation. Biblically we see an example of a nation and a city being dealt with by God. The first was Sodom and the other was Nineveh; there are more but this will be enough for our point. Every one curses nations as being godless but I would submit to you how many believers in the true God would it take to preserve one of these supposed godless nations? How many Christians would be required by example in the word of God would it take to preserve a nation?

Genesis 18:22-33

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And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am but* dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for *lack of* five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy *it*. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do *it* for forty's sake. And he said *unto him*, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do *it*, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for twenty's sake. And he said, **Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.** And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

So do you know ten Christians near your home? Why do you think God would crush a nation that had more than ten Christians when he wouldn't have crushed Sodom? What about Nineveh?

Jonah 3:9-10

Who can tell *if* God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

Would you say the Christian churches in your town have repented and are on good terms with God? So why would he save a city that didn't know Jesus his son but yet crush yours?

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Besides you will note that in neither case did anyone condemn the city or nation it was a warning with a hope of redemption. More so I say unto you since Jesus gave his life on the cross.

Men and women stomp around speaking curse after curse and then wonder why it comes to pass. They point to their cursing and say "see God said it and it has come to pass" I submit to you that Life and death come from the power of the tongue and those that love it live by the fruit thereof as it is written:

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

So what scriptural principle is in action when thousands of Christians curse the land they were given by God as a blessing, making it a curse to them? Is it true prophecy or better stated fruit of Christian tongues who have forgotten the land they stand in is a gift from God?

It's not prophecy its Christians falling into the trap of making what God has given them as a blessing and declaring it a curse to them. The reason it's not prophecy is because it doesn't agree with the word of God.

Seriously, if the place you live is so cursed, come out of it like Lot did Sodom and don't look back. Otherwise count it as a blessing and let your light shine as a city on a hill before the people so they can be blessed by God's goodness not some 400lb Christian gorilla that hates where he lives. Foolishness.

This type of thing is an example of men's foolishness attempting to pass as God's word, false prophets every one of them, hypocrites. If where you are is beyond God, you had better go out.

God has instructions that support this position in the bible his more sure word of prophecy. I just pointed them out. Yet still some will walk around speaking garbage and calling it prophecy. The reason they do this is because they no longer submit themselves unto the

prophets, who in turn submit themselves unto the Word of God the “more sure word of prophecy” and God himself.

Foolishness of Ballam. Be still, false prophets.

Which leads me into the whole “seeking a word” Christian thingy. Running from place to place, prophet to prophet, church to church, ministry to ministry for the latest word is foolishness.

Worship God and as you do, if you require confirmation he will bring that confirmation to you. Why do you seek a prophet's word rather than God's word? Is the Holy Spirit in you? If so why do you “require” a prophet to speak words into your life? What if you worshiped God alone and as you went about that business God sent you a word of prophecy? How about getting your scriptural house in order.

If you ask me if God has a word, I will ask God. However; I will admonish you to ask God.

Jeremiah 42:1-6

Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshai, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near, And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and **pray for us unto the LORD thy God**, *even* for all this remnant; (for we are left *but* a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:) That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do. Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard *you*; behold, I **will pray unto the LORD your God** according to your words; and it shall come to pass, *that* whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare *it* unto you; I will keep nothing back from you. Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us. Whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

Pray to the Lord YOUR God. He has provided an answer for you. As you pray to the Lord YOUR God and walk after him he may from time to time send prophecy as a confirmation to you of

what he has told you. Past is the time when men come before man to meet God. Jesus fixed that.

1 Timothy 2:5

For *there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

Learn to do that it will bless you.

Now many of you who are starting out and experiencing the gift/office of prophecy may feel isolated, don't, God will not leave you. Understand when you have liberty to prophecy you should, and as your faith grows in the gift/office of prophecy God's grace will cover you as you learn. Be free and have freedom.

Spend time talking with your God, you will need him if you walk in the office of the prophet. Take time with your God because you will need his fellowship, you will need his relationship. Now that need isn't any more than any other Christians needs as well but for you it may be the only fellowship you get from time to time as people reject you because of the message you bring from God. Remember you are not above your master and he was rejected and crucified for the word of God's sake.

Traps:

1. Don't color God's Word and allowing your head to change his intentions.
2. Don't forget to close your mouth when God is done speaking, learn to identify where God stops and you want to start.
3. Don't assume God's emotions; deliver what he has given you in Love.
4. Don't get into the business of judgment. Only Jesus has that.
5. Don't get puffed up by your gift, you aren't special; we are all precious.
6. Don't forget to point folks to Jesus.
7. Don't allow yourself to take on the persecuted prophet syndrome.
8. Don't allow the gift God has given you to become curse to you remember to whom the gift belongs.
9. Don't allow yourself to get out of order.
10. Don't forget to submit yourself unto the prophets.
11. Don't forget to rest and have peace in Jesus.

Blessings:

1. Do enjoy the close relationship of constant communication with God.
2. Do project God's heart with Love to all he desires.
3. Do learn you can rest in this gift.
4. Do know God is your fellowship, when others fail.
5. Do understand the freedom of it being HIS message not yours.
6. Do enjoy the love for God's people he has placed in your heart.
7. Do remember God's grace for you.
8. Do remember God's boldness to speak his word and he gives it to you.

Most of all remember enjoy your walk with God, if your walk has gotten to the point you have no joy, it's time to check your theology. The Joy of the Lord is your strength.

Love you in Christ

Bro. John

If you have any questions or issues feel free to email me. Seeker@godsprovision.org