

# BECOMING A PROPHETIC PEOPLE & CHURCH COMMUNITY

Introduction

How the prophetic works in practice and examples

What prompts the prophetic: how and in what contexts?

How can we grow in the prophetic? In and outside of our meetings? In our communities? At work? How do we “live prophetic lives”?

How is a Church Prophetic?

Some examples of Prophetic living and outcomes

Summary

# BECOMING A PROPHETIC PEOPLE & CHURCH COMMUNITY

## INTRODUCTION

1. Prophecy was a normal experience in the New Testament.

Follows that it should be a normal experience for us today

**“God has an intense desire to speak to His people. If you do not believe that God is willing to speak to us, then you do not understand God”.**

Bruce Yocum

2. Prophecy outside of the scriptures is **not** infallible.

1 Cor 13: “we prophecy in part”. Must be under authority of scripture (1 Cor. 14: 36-40) and it must be tested and weighed. (1 Thess. 5:19-21)

Be cautious of “Thus says the Lord” pronouncements.

Not always about the future. Paul: 1 Cor.14: encouragement, consolation, and the building up of God’s people.

Test and weigh predictive prophecy carefully.

# HOW THE PROPHETIC WORKS IN PRACTICE

Prophecy is the supernatural ability to speak, act or interpret in other ways the mind of God on a given subject at a given time by the help of the Holy Spirit

Prophecy is putting into words or action something God has brought to mind

Important: The “prophetic” – hearing from God - can arise in any circumstance and is NOT restricted to Church services or smaller Christian meetings. God is everywhere, so His people can hear from Him anywhere.

# HOW THE PROPHETIC WORKS IN PRACTICE: EXAMPLES

Prophetic “Oracles”

Prophetic exhortation

Prophetic prayer

Prophetically reading scripture

Personal prophecy

Prophetic visions or dreams

Prophetic actions

Prophetic lives

Prophetic evangelism (Mark Stibbe)

# WHAT PROMPTS THE PROPHETIC?

## HOW AND IN WHAT CONTEXTS DOES IT HAPPEN?

- As an overflow of heightened HS activity
- Through a process of inquiry
- Visions or Dreams
- A “Bubbling-up” of words or actions
- A prompting as to Scriptures
- God challenging us to see things spiritually
- Words of knowledge for neighbours, friends or strangers
  - for healing or special wisdom (Prophetic Evangelism)
- A “growing burden” and prayer for a neighbour, your work colleague, school, community or some other situation or scenario

# HOW CAN WE GROW IN THE PROPHETIC?

- PRAY – It's not the person so much as their relationship with God and their motivation that matters
- Try not to give in to doubt. Step out in faith.
- Learn to follow, not ignore, Spirit-inspired promptings and hunches.
- Keep asking questions of God about what you see or perceive.
- Be at peace, never feel pressured to perform or act impetuously.
- Be gracious and demonstrate God's love. Don't be harsh or judgmental.

# What does “Living Prophetically” Mean?

“Reflecting God’s Nature and Wisdom in what we say and do, wherever we are and no matter who we’re with”. Choosing the “Kingdom way”

Examples:

William Wilberforce – anti slavery. Died just 3 days after act passed.

7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury – alleviated long working hours for children

George Muller – Bristol Orphanage – lived by faith

Elizabeth Fry – Prison reform, especially for women

Harold Moody – Jamaican- campaigned against Racial Prejudice in UK

What about us? We are all called to be stewards of the earth and of the resources God has given us. We are all called to carry God’s presence with us, to represent Him. Some may have specific callings, e.g. environment.

# What's a "Prophetic Church?"

***Through preaching and practical action, the church is at its prophetic best when it lives and acts in a way that would make no sense unless Jesus is King, and His Kingdom really were arriving here and now.***

***Every time we show the gods of our age to be false, and expose their claims as a lie, we are speaking the truth to power.***

***Glen Packiam***

A Prophetic Church has acceptance of the prophetic at its core. In particular, when prophecy may have an impact on the forward direction and life of the church as a whole, it is a given responsibility that church leadership considers the way(s) in which to bring the prophetic to life within the Church Community.



# TO SUMMARISE

- Be natural
- Sense the right time or place
- Be submitted to Godly leaders
- Avoid “heavy” or very directional words
- Write out longer words, dreams or visions and be prepared to have them weighed or tested.
- Use language that’s easy to understand and be aware of cultural aspects.
- Live a prophetic life wherever you are and whoever you’re with.
- Avoid secrecy or the desire to impress.
- Be cautious over personal prophecies
- Take special care over births, marriages and deaths
- Be aware and wary of false Prophets who can speak truth, but from wrong motivation or beliefs (Notes available)