

PROPHETS AND PERSONAL PROPHECY # 4

Ephesians 4:11-12 *“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some **prophets**, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,...”*

PROPHETIC PRINCIPLES

- I. Proper Biblical principles **must be followed in order to see the prophetic promises come to pass.** - Obedience - 1 Samuel 15:22-23 *“Then Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.’”*
 - II. The “Saul mentality” (stubbornness, self-deception, self-justification, and blame shifting) must be overcome and submitted to Christ or it will sabotage your life. - 1 Samuel 13:11-12 *“And Samuel said, ‘What have you done?’ And Saul said, ‘When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash,’ then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.’”*
 - III. Before personal prophecies come to pass, things often get worse before they get better. Why? - Ephesians 6:10-12 *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*
 - IV. Delays are not denials **but are designed to bring a dedication to God or to work out problems in the life that would not otherwise be worked out.** - Romans 4:17-22 *“...(as it is written, ‘I have made you a father of many nations’) in the presence of Him whom he believed; God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’” And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’”*
- Hebrews 10:35-36 *“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise...”*
- V. Promotion and prosperity comes from the Lord, not from the world. - 2 Corinthians 6:14 *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”*

VI. Your maturing and becoming a stable believer is more important to God than what great things are produced through your life. - Ephesians 4:12 *“...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,...”*

The “Balaam motivation” of greed and gain, power and popularity, will hinder the blessings of God. - Numbers 23:19-20 *“God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Behold, I have received a command to bless; He has blessed, and I cannot reverse it.”*