

The Apostle Paul a former Pharisee, Hebrew of Hebrews, who had an incredible encounter with the resurrected Christ, used incredibly by God with miracles, signs and wonders and these Bereans searched the scriptures to prove that what Paul was saying was true.

We begin to take our encounters, experiences and visions and make doctrine out of it even when we cannot substantiate it with the word of God, or we find some obscure verse to back it up.

It's not wrong to speculate but we tend to accept it as doctrine and then we can gradually drift off and wander into heresy.

### **7. Neglecting to Test Prophecies**

*1 John 4:1 NKJV - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

Prophetic ministry comes through the filter of our nature and our view of God. Therefore no word can be so pure that it does not need testing.

Does the word line up with the scriptures, does it reflect the character of God, Who is Love; does it line up with what God is already doing or is throwing you into completely new directions; and whom does it exalt?

### **8. Lack of Character**

We need to value character over giftedness. God is looking for character greater or equal to the gift.

If the gift is greater than you, you will feel like you always have to have something, always have to have an answer.

NEVER, EVER be impressed with the anointing or the gifts...be impressed with the character of Christ being manifested through the life of the one who ministers.

*1 Peter 4:1-3 NKJV - 1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

# **PURIFYING THE PROPHETIC**

## **Part 2 ~ Protection**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

We want to look at protecting the prophetic by closing any doors of access that would permit impure or tainted prophecy from entering.

#### **1. Imbalances Regarding Personal Prophecies**

God created us in His image as spiritual beings which means that each one of us has the capacity, whether it is being used or not, to sense the feelings and inner conditions of others.

To accurately perceive what is in the heart of another person (read their mail so to speak) does not make us prophetic. It makes us human.

It could be that the inner desires of the person you are ministering to can have the power to draw inaccurate or impure words from you even if you are genuinely gifted.

*1 Kings 22:6 NKJV - 6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."*

*1 Kings 22:7-8 NKJV - 7 And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of Him?" 8 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."*

Are we drawn to those prophetic voices who will only speak what we want to hear?

*1 Kings 22:13 NKJV - 13 Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."*

Maturity, experience, brokenness and humility which come over time enable us to discern between what we sense in the hearts of people from the true word flowing from the heart of God.

## 2. Prophecy on Demand

Prophecy on demand can breed a pressure to perform and even to make things up so as not to disappoint, which lessens the quality of the prophetic utterances given, diluting them.

There are times when God does not reveal everything to us; and there are times when someone is not ready to receive a word.

*2 Kings 4:27 NKJV - Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me."*

At other times the person being ministered to is not ready to receive the word.

*John 16:12 NKJV - I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

## 3. Indiscriminate Impartation of Gifts

*1 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV - But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.*

*1 Corinthians 12:11 NKJV - But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

We are to be like Jesus who did and said only what He saw and heard the Father saying and doing, and the gifts came forth as He did the Father's will.

## 4. Faithing Ourselves into Mystical Experiences

In the Word most, if not all encounters with angels, third heaven experiences, were initiated by God and the purpose had historic significance and affected a nation or nations.

The emphasis on seeking heavenly experiences can easily move us into performance and works and an elitist mentality.

*2 Corinthians 12:4-6 NKJV - 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.*

Paul was not permitted to repeat what he had heard. Paul also refused to share these experiences because he didn't want anyone to regard him as greater than he was.

I am for spiritual encounters and experiences but let's make sure we are seeking Him and allowing Him to decide how He wants to reveal things to us.

## 5. Fleshly Dream Interpretation

We spend too much time speculating instead of asking the Lord.

Joseph knew that dream interpretation came from God not from his own understanding.

*Genesis 41:15-16 NKJV - 15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it." 16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."*

*Daniel 2:16-19 NKJV - 16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision.*

## 6. Speculations Presented as Doctrine

*Acts 17:11 NKJV - The Bereans were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*