**DAY 10**

**THE PROPHETIC EDGE**

My pastor used to say, “The gift of prophecy is our home field advantage.” So true! The ability to know what God is saying about our lives or situations, our calling, and the decisions that lie ahead enables us to pray with faith and accuracy, thus going farther, faster, and accomplishing what God is speaking to us. The gifts of the Spirit have always been a subject of great debate, confusion, and abuse as well as a blessing and powerful weapons for the body of Christ. My position on the gifts of the Holy Spirit is that despite abuse, hype, and frequent overdoses of “charismania,” all of the gifts are for today and are a great benefit to the Church and the life of every believer. The ‘win’ for today’s devotional would be to develop a stronger passion for the gifts of the Spirit and to grow in your ability to hear and speak out what God is saying, thus sharpening your weapons of prayer enabling you take some serious spiritual ground in these days of ***Pursuit*** and beyond.

Here are several ways you can gain, sharpen, and implement your prophetic edge:

1. **GET PASSIONATE ABOUT THE GIFTS**

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.”

1 Corinthians 14:1-3

The Greek word for desire ‘zeloo’ means “to be passionate, to strive after, to pursue with zeal, and to earnest pursuit.” The reason so many people do not experience the gifts of the Spirit, or personally operate in them, is simply because they do not ask or pursue the gifts with passion. This complacency towards the gifts occurs either though poor teaching, lack of personal passion, or a mindset that says, “If God wants me to have then, He will give them to me,” but this isn’t what the Word teaches us. We must be passionate about the gifts of the Spirit and the Holy Spirit’s activity in our lives.

**TAKE A MOMENT**

Ask God to increase the gifts of the Spirit in your life, especially prophecy. Ask for the gifts you feel He is leading you towards and stir up the gifts in your life that may be laying dormant (2 Timothy 1:6.) During these days of Pursuit, the Holy Spirit desires to fill and ignite you with a fire and passion, so eagerly desire and run after the gifts.

1. **KEEP COMPANY WITH SPIRITUALLY GIFTED PEOPLE**

There are three dimensions of prophetic gifting revealed in the scriptures. Time and space do not allow for an in-depth study but here’s the simple breakdown and big idea:

1. There is the **office of the prophet**. [Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Corinthians 12:28]
2. There is the **gift of prophecy.**  [1 Corinthians 14:1, 1 Timothy 4:14]
3. The **spirit of prophecy.** [1 Samuel 10:10-12, Numbers 11:29, Acts 13:1-2, Revelation 19:10]

Prophecy and other spiritual gifts are contagious! In other words, if you hang around with people who operate freely and powerfully in the gifts, you will begin to do the same, especially if you receive prayer from them. During your days of fasting, I would encourage you to attend or set up if necessary, some prayer gatherings where the prophets are invited and released to do what they do. These gatherings have the potential to be defining moments in life, ministry-alerting encounters that set direction, and release a new purpose for our future.

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This is a spiritual principle across the board. If you want to increase in your finances, start with giving God what already belongs to him, the tithe, and then start sowing into the “good soil” of valid ministries, helping the poor and blessing any and every one the Holy Spirit nudges you to bless. And then see what happens.

If you want to increase the numbers of smiles and hugs you are receiving in life, it’s quite simple, give more away. So, in regard to seeing the increase of the prophetic gifts and the “word of the Lord” in your life, start giving more of it away. Allow me to explain because this is not as complicated as you might think. Before I pray for people, I simply take a moment to ask the Lord this question, “Father, what do You think about them? What is in your heart for them and is there anything you want to remind them of?” As I start every personal ministry time with that brief prayer, with my motivation being simply and purely to see them encouraged and strengthened, God is quite consistent to drop a “prophetic thought” in my heart for that person. You can do this! We can do all this! Prophecy is not for spiritually elite or an exclusive few; it’s for all of us!

1. **FIGHT FOR YOUR FUTURE WITH THE PROPHETIC EDGE**

*“So, Timothy, my son, I am entrusting you with this responsibility, in keeping with the very first prophecies that were spoken over your life and are now in the process of fulfillment in this great work of ministry, in keeping with the prophecies spoken over you. With this encouragement* ***use your prophecies as weapons as you wage spiritual warfare by faith!”*** 1 Timothy 1:18-19 (TPT)

Paul was telling Timothy that what God had spoken to him though the gifts of prophecy in the past would become the current effective weapon that would enable him to battle well. This is a powerful and effective way to wage spiritual warfare. To take ground, declare what God has already said about your life. Just as Timothy was reminded about the prophetic direction God had set for his life, I’m sure that you too had some prophecies spoken over your life. I would encourage you today to get those out, dust them off, recall, recite, and declare what God has revealed about your future.

1. **DON’T GIVE UP ON WHAT GOD HAS SPOKEN OVER YOU**

The most difficult seasons in our journey of faith are usually the delay between the promise and the fulfillment, the time between the vision and the fruition of the vision, the gap between the dream, and when it becomes a reality. For Joseph it was many years of waiting and being tested by the very dream that God gave (see Genesis, Chapters 37-42.)

 *“Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.”*

 Psalm 105:19 (NKJV)

The same is true for us. The gap months or years, between the prophetic word and the time when it becomes reality, is where we need to fight the good fight of faith according to what God has spoken. Don’t give up or back off, believe that God will do everything he has promised to you.

I have carried prophetic words for years before they came to pass. Some I’ve carried for over a decade and there are a few I’m still believing for, contending for, and trusting God to fulfill. Perhaps the delays I have personally experienced were self-inflicted, perhaps there is a real enemy resisting the greater things of God in my life, or perhaps it’s just not God’s timing yet. Probably all three elements have some truth and influence in my reality. Here’s the bottom line, I will not give up or back off from what I know is God’s preferable future for my life; it has been revealed to my heart and confirmed through prophecy.

*“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”*

 Habakkuk 2:3 (NKJV)

**MEMORY VERSE**

*“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”*Romans 8:37

**PRAYER DIRECTIVE**

Follow Paul’s instructions to Timothy and “battle well” by recalling what God has said. A personal practice that I would invite you try is this: I will often bring up word docs or get out journals of prophetic words that God has given me in the past and will lay them out in front of me. I will then take some time in prayer to remind God of His promises and also to remind myself of my prophetic potential and destiny. As you do this, you will realize that God’s words over your future are still alive and well, and you will find that your faith has kicked into a new high. Pray those God thoughts and prophecies out loud, speaking into reality what God has already spoken.

**THOUGHTS & NOTES**