

Episode 014

Prophetic Insights With Ps. Phil Lowe

Ps Lai Ling:

Welcome to wilsonlailing.com. This is an equipping website and we emphasize on the aspects of leadership, intercession and the prophetic. And today we are very blessed to have Pastor Phil here. Pastor Phil Lowe, all the way from Adelaide, Australia, and he'll be sharing a little bit about his prophetic journey with us. Pastor Phil has been in ministry for many years. Pastoring and leading other pastors and leaders in various congregations as well. And so he comes with a wealth of experience in his journey with the Lord.

Pastor Phil, could you please share with us a little bit about your prophetic journey? How it all started.

Ps Phil Lowe:

I would class myself more as a local pastor with a prophetic edge. I really discovered, I guess, back many, many years ago, I had a scripture saying, "You'll be called as a prophet to the nations." from Jeremiah 1:5 and I didn't really fully understand it because I'd grew up in the Pentecostal church, backslid for a number of years and came back to the Lord, and this scripture kind of loomed up and I didn't really know what to make of it. And, but I used to explore that and think about that. And I guess over a period of time, that was really the point of departure for me, trying that scripture and then trying to understand what that meant. And then talking to different people within ministry, within the denomination within which I work. And discovering that there is a distinct ministry in the prophetic. I mean, there's different levels of the prophetic stuff as we all know. And so that's really my launching point. And then really it's been a matter of opportunities that have arisen. And in endeavoring to be faithful to those opportunities and to speak out what you feel is that God is saying in whatever particular context and so forth.



Ps Lai Ling:

Yes. Wow. That's wonderful.

And Pastor Phil, could you share with us maybe one or two aspects on how God developed you more and more in the prophetic in your journey?

Ps Phil Lowe:

Sure. I think really, I mean, this might sound a bit crass, but for me it was sort of in a sense, trial and error. And, you know, taking the opportunities and then really going to places and speaking very haltingly at first, some of the impressions that you had. And then learning, I guess to sharpen the gift by virtue of 'success or failure' - I call it profit and loss- or so in those opportunities. And then understand the motivation for really ministering the prayers is what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14, "Pursue love, earnestly desire spiritual gifts, particularly that you may prophesy." And I think that whole area of learning to really have a sense of love for God's church and love for his people. And flying out of that then endeavoring to be faithful to what you receive and then in that speaking it out and learning well that was useless or that was helpful.

So I think it's quite like, to me it's been quite practical. And not particularly mysterious, but also having the benefit of peers who can then help you and say, have you thought about that? Or have you thought about this? And then of course, reading the literature, there's not been a lot of literature, a lot of books written. I think Graham Cooke's book has been very helpful. Another book called Developing Your [Prophetic Gifting], that's Graham Cooke's and another couple other books I've been reading- Ernest Gentile's books on the Prophetic. And so reading that and saying, oh gosh, you know. So that's pretty much in [a nutshell] you know.

Ps Lai Ling:

So through a lot of just when God opens up the opportunity. Just stepping into that. Stepping in faith and that confidence, and just seeing what God does. And just being faithful to steward that gift. And, in terms of like in your whole prophetic journey,

perhaps you could share with us one or two highlights, you know, in the whole time, as you're ministering to various pastors, leaders and churches as well. That's one or two things that highlights that journey.



Ps Phil Lowe:

Yeah. I guess there's a lot of highlights really in terms of, I think one of the highlights is getting the opportunity to actually do it, to be used by God in that particular way and being anointed, I guess to be useful in God's kingdom.

There was an interesting situation. I was in a conference in Adelaide at a large conference, and it was a prophetic conference and there was this guy there. And it wasn't a presbytery per se, but it was just at the end. And I was asked to bring him a word. So I talked to this particular guy. I started raving on about going to the nations and gonna do this, this, and this. And the guy really wasn't impressed. That's to be honest, putting it mildly. And so he had a few words with me afterwards. And not in a rude manner, but I mean, and I think that's appropriate because you've got to judge the prophecy. And I'm more than prepared to say, well, if I got it wrong, I apologise, and just move on.

So as it turns out, it was appropriate. And the extraordinary thing is I went on a missions trip with another friend to Russia. Who was sitting next to me? This guy who I prophesied. He [had] said, "I'll never go to the nations. It's not in my future." So that was kind of interesting. And I think other things, being involved in presbytery, I mean, even being here last four years ago, or five years ago was a wonderful experience.

Ps Lai Ling:

It was wonderful.

Ps Phil Lowe:

And to see, to see the change that comes in people's life. And you see the knock-on effect of that into the congregation. Because from the beginning of the presbytery to the end of the presbytery to see the change in people's faces and people's demeanor and their sense of hope and purpose is quite wonderful. I think it was Graham Cooke who said, "When the church is discouraged, call for the prophets."



Ps Lai Ling:

Because I mean, the prophetic gift is to strengthen, to build up, to comfort and, and adjust a bit here and there as God sees fit. So it is to build up the people as well, to look with hope and confidence with what God has in store. As a church in Hope Church, Brisbane, we've been truly blessed with the prophetic ministry that God has moved through Pastor Phil and many of the guest prophets amongst us as well. And this is an age where there's so much being spoken about the prophetic and there have been many who would run after the prophetic in desiring to develop in the prophetic- which is fantastic.

What would be perhaps from your experience, would be one or two perhaps things to watch out for? Or one or two pitfalls that the prophetic people community need to just be aware of so that we don't go off course in that.

Ps Phil Lowe:

I think one of the things is to be cautious about saying, "Thus says The Lord." because it leaves no argument. You know, the Lord said it- leaves no argument. If the Lord said, well, you can't refuse it right? Even if it's right or wrong. I think that's something that I think we need to be cautious with rather and say, "This is what I feel the Lord is saying." With an opening so it can be valued and can be evaluated and can be judged.

Also, I think humility is an issue for us. And then perhaps the most important thing is motivation. Why? Why do you want to be in the prophetic? Why do you want to do this? And I come back again to what Paul says, "Pursue love." And you know, the definition is the chapter before. You know, all those different qualities. And I think if we have a sense of love for the people in a Christian sense, we will not want to abuse the people. We won't want to manipulate the people. We'd only want to build them and to stir and to encourage and strengthen them.

I think some of these very fundamental, non-glamorous kind of things are so profoundly important that we really do it because well, first of all, there's a calling and an encouragement to do it. But we must realise they're precious people and because the prophetic has gained a reputation of being so powerful and so exotic and so forth. People are then more open to listening to what's said. And so therefore, to a degree, they're more vulnerable. And if the word of the Lord comes and it's genuine and it's testable, fine. But if it's coming from a motivation of fame, fortune, or whatever, then the people can be harmed. We cannot harm God's people.



Ps Lai Ling:

That's right.

Ps Phil Lowe:

And you can, your words are powerful. I remember a situation many years ago when my wife was a young Christian, and I was away on business, and a prophetic person came to this particular church and called her out the front and started saying all this stuff to her, which was so not true about her, and it affected her for months. Because you have this sense where you revere the person who's been given the opportunity or given the reputation and given the opportunity to speak into someone's life. And so we need to be understanding that it's powerful. Powerful for good, but potentially to do harm.

And so our motivation, our love for God, our love for his church, and love for his people and love for God's name, his reputation is so profoundly important. Because some of the stuff that's been in the recent years that's been so political and so off the wall, it's done so much harm. And they're not prepared to back down and apologise. You make a mistake, you apologise. And bring healing, you know? I don't know if that answers your question.

Ps Lai Ling:

No, that's really important. I mean, part of our training in Hope Church Brisbane, as well as called into different churches to help train, I think one of the things that I've learned is really, when we bring something from the Lord it's firstly, we are servants of God- His sons and daughters. But again communicate and exemplify the heart of the father to the lives of people. Yeah and our words have the greatest potential to encourage, to build up, but it can also have one of the greatest potential to discourage.

If you're not careful and more so this, when this is a gift from the Lord, all the more we need to be stewards that would really demonstrate his heart and love. And so to me, the whole aspect of humility and even you know, if we did make a mistake to really say, I'm sorry. I misheard or something like that. Because none of us is infallible.

Ps Phil Lowe:

We prophesy in part.



Ps Lai Ling:

That's right. So that's really important. What you shared and the different areas that we need to just watch out for and in all that. And it's true, I mean, as a church in Hope Church Brisbane, and also in our HIM family, global family, we are really blessed to have the years when you have imparted to us, through our conferences and so forth. I remembered having gone through each prophetic word, transcribed all that - those hours since 1992.

And I've always looked at it at least once a year. Because it's a good reminder of what God has been doing. And I would encourage you too, for those of you who have received prophetic words you know, in the past or even just presently, to transcribe that and actually keep a record of that. And time and time again, go back, revisit that and ask the Lord to speak into your heart and life. Perhaps there are areas that has come to pass. Praise the Lord. Perhaps there are areas that you need to contend, you need to contend for that word in the Lord. Not to rush forward or go ahead of God. But to really come before the Lord in prayer and see perhaps if he needs to make adjustments in our lives to help us walk forth in confidence with him. So I just want to encourage you, for those of you watching this podcast as well in this time of interview.

It's wonderful Pastor Phil. Pastor Phil, given your extensive experience in pastoring and in the prophetic.

What would be like one little very important nugget of truth that you would want to impart to us especially in the prophetic for a prophetic community?

Ps Phil Lowe:

I think if I look back on my life, I wish that I had more mentors and people who are wiser than, and more experienced than I was, or am still, so that I could go to them and talk about the sort of stuff that I think that God is speaking in order to learn to become more- I don't like the term accurate- be more appropriate, I think. In terms of the people's situation or the church's situation, I tend to be better if I can put it that way at speaking to a church situation rather than individuals. When I've done some of that and sometimes it's a profit and loss, you know? But, at the broader sense of the church and its position and how it's focusing.



But I think having someone that you can go to who's trusted, or some ones you can go to and speak to them and say, "This is what I'm thinking. this is what I've been feeling." These are the sorts of things, if I had more of that, I think there would've been less missteps. And possibly I would've been more developed in my, in my gifting in terms of its capacity to really make its mark, you know? I think that for me is probably the most important thing. And I don't think I'm an island in that. I think that's true, perhaps of us all. It's great you're doing these podcasts because we want to develop a whole generation of people who have that grace upon them.

Ps Lai Ling:

Thank you so much, Pastor Phil. That to me is a real nugget of wisdom. It's very important that we have a community and also be willing to be mentored by others who maybe they could have a longer history of experience with the Lord and in the word. And that will help us be our checks and balances as well. So I'm really, really blessed -my husband and I by Pastor Phil Lowe, by Pastor John Jacks who has gone to be with the Lord, by Pastor John Tiplady, and all the various prophetic ministers that we have a fellowship with and who have ministered in our church and even in HIM itself.

So I really want to thank you for your time, Pastor Phil with us. And it's so how do I say, such a blessing. You've been such a blessing to our lives, to the life of our church and, and also to many of our churches in Australia as well and overseas. Thank you so much for this time.

And thank you so much for being with us in this podcast. I believe you would've learned of quite a few things and may the Lord begin to speak to your heart some areas to develop in and to grow in as well. Be blessed.



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. Pastor Phil Lowe mentioned the importance of humility in moving in the prophetic. Ask the Lord how we can grow in humility, perhaps by seeking mentoring from those who are wiser and more experienced in the Word and in their journey with God. These godly individuals can also serve as our checks and balances.
2. Pastor Phil Lowe also emphasized the significance of our motivation for ministering in the prophetic. Reflect on what God is speaking to your heart regarding your motivation, specifically your love for God, His church, and His people. Can you identify some manageable steps you can take to foster growth in these areas of motivation?





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