



Episode 009

Prophetic Protocols

As God's vessels, we are on this journey with God to grow godly character as we seek to function more in the prophetic. God desires us to develop a heart towards Heavenly Father and servant heart, rather than looking at the "glamour" that comes with the prophetic.

True humility, teachability, being mentored, developing genuine heart motivations and accountability are keys to honing oneself in any gifts of God.

What is prophetic protocols?

Some prefer to call it prophetic etiquette. It is the proper administration and order in the prophetic which, when observed, provide the person being ministered to with maximum ability to receive and benefit from the word given.

The objective of prophetic etiquette is to build the lives of people in any particular setting (personal or larger group setting).

Proverbs 25:11 (NIV) A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.



Why the need for protocols/guidelines?

The gift of prophecy is a God-given gift. We wish to convey God's heart of love, faith and hope towards people. This gifting has one of the greatest potential to either heal or dampen.

As a church we desire to build a prophetic community. Hence the church also needs to provide guidelines and modus operandi to build a safe environment where:

- Prophetic people can be released to utilise their gifting in a wise and caring way to bless others.
- The recipients of the prophetic word feel safe receiving those words and experience a building up in their spirit man.
- All of which is operating in a godly manner, with wisdom and stability, in a fitting and orderly way, ensuring the safety of God's house and in cooperation with church leadership.
- God has not called us to function on our own terms but rather He has pieced us altogether to function interdependently and in harmony one with another.

Protocols are guidelines set up to protect you, the prophetic ministry and the person being ministered to.

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 (NIV) Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 40But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

1 Corinthians 14:32 (NIV) The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.

People are not acting to scriptural standards when they say things like, "God made me do it." Or "The Holy Spirit made me jump out and scream out the word."

Ask yourself: am I causing a distraction or am I being a vessel that God is speaking through.



1. It is inappropriate to give a prophetic word when:

- a. We are angry or have strong, negative emotional feelings towards the person or people we are delivering the prophetic word. It introduces bias and colour the “prophetic” words. Be aware of your own spiritual and emotional state. Problems of people ministering out of their own hurts or wounds. Project the same spirit to others.
- b. When we use prophecy as an avenue to validate our personal beliefs or doctrinal beliefs.
- c. When we lack relationship or accountability towards the person or group of people receiving our prophecy. We need to be accountable for our words before God and to the church leadership. We must bear responsibility for what we prophesied to others so that we do not become careless with the gift which God has given us.

2. Our manner of delivery/demeanour should also match that of the Holy Spirit, meaning to utilise the appropriate tone in which the Holy Spirit is communicating the word to us. It is seldom necessary to yell out a prophecy. At times the tone in which we bring out the word communicates just as much as the words themselves.

3. Love must be the center of all that we do for Jesus. When we minister in the prophetic or any other spiritual gifts, it should be with the intention of bringing out the best in people, not dominate over people’s lives. The Bible is clear that life and death are in our words. When we give people negative words, we often release death over them. Our goal is to minister life and calls out the best in people.

Proverbs 18:21 (NIV) The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Good guideline: If you do not wish to receive the word yourself, you should not want to give it to someone else.



4. Ask yourself if negative prophetic words are common to you. If it is of a high percentage, you may be the problem. At times God may warn us of dangerous or negative situations. Then pray for the situation, pray in God's grace and safety. Pray till the burden lifts. It does not mean you need to release every prophetic word all the time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

5. Understand 1 Cor 14:3, prophecy is to build, exhort, comfort not judge nor correct. It is best to leave the correction and judgement to those who are experienced in the prophetic eg prophetic ministers that are recognised by prophets who minister in the five fold. Or to the pastoral oversight of the person concerned. This is one of our values in in church to be a life enriching community.

6. Ask God for a prophetic word that releases life into a situation. God's grace poured out into a situation enables change to occur. Prophecy the answer will uplift our spirits and come against the darkness that may be threatening us. Should the warning persists, we should submit the word to the leadership. As we pray, God will surely provide wisdom and understanding to our leaders regarding the word.

7. Wisdom is to be exercised when revealing parts of a person's life details in a public setting. We have a sacred trust to care and not to embarrass them nor expose them. Leave the issues to be sorted out to the discretion of the key leaders of the church.

Use terms that the individual can understand as we do not wish to cause confusion. Do not be critical or condemning. Ask God if you can turn a negative into a positive; to see the potential not just the problem/history.



8. Be accountable to our leaders. Invite leadership over our lives and learn to trust them more than we trust ourselves especially with regards to big decisions in life eg. life direction etc.

Be willing to submit the word we have heard from God to our leaders for further confirmation and wise counsel. If we ever become deceived, the only way out is to trust someone else more than ourselves. Deception is so subtle that we do not even know that we are being deceived ourselves. As our leaders follow Christ, we are to also follow suit. Leaders are to be safe people where our people can come to easily. We need to have a heart of a spiritual father/mother, not a critical spirit.

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV) Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.



Personal prophecy protocol (Dr and Ps Che Anh Harvest Rock Church, Pasadena, California)

- No dates: Jesus did not give specific dates as to His return.
- No mates: we are not to tell the person who to marry, or divorce etc. Prophecy on BGR – prophecies that point toward a particular person.
- No deaths or births: This can bring much heartbreak and confusion.
- No correction or specific direction: Correction and direction should come from those whom God has given a place of authority, covering and accountability over the person's life eg. Five fold ministers, pastors or mature leaders over them.
- Be careful about "Thus saith the Lord.". Best to start with I sense, I see, I believe the Lord is saying..” We do not all have the full counsel of God. We need to build in experience in prophetic ministry.
- Prophecy should be judged :should be judged against the Word of God . All new revelation must be consistent with the infallible word of God.

2 Peter 1:19 (NIV) And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

1 Corinthians 14:29 (NIV) Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.

- Prophecy should also bear witness with your inner witness causing you to feel built up, encouraged and comforted. It is best not to receive a prophetic word from someone who resists having one's word judged by church leaders. It is good for the word to be recorded and transcribed so that the word could be weighted upon and be a blessing to the one who received it in future years.



- Gender specific , unless witnessed. When giving a prophetic word to the opposite sex, it is strongly recommended to have a third party present that is mature in the prophetic. It can be a personal word, observing this guideline can help avoid error and abuse.
- Giving of prophecies: We do not encourage people giving prophecies to just anyone without encouraging accountability/covering of their mentors/leaders. Remember the need to work together with local church leadership as exemplified by the prophetic and presbytery ministries in the life of our church.
- TEAM – “together everyone accomplishes more”. Respect, gracious, submissive, don’t hog the show, let someone finish speaking, be brief and concise.

Corporate prophecy

In a church service, the appropriate way to deliver a prophetic word is to submit it to the person or persons in charge of the service.

1 Corinthians 14:32 - 33 (NIV) The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints,

Request for prophetic words be written down and submitted to appropriate pastor for approval. (Harvest Rock Church)

Prophesying in church and calling for a response after the prophecy – leave it to the chairperson be the one to make the call for people to respond to God. Unless chairperson delegates responsibility to the one prophesying, (someone seasoned in the prophetic). Chairperson determines the flow of God.

People being prayed for at altar call and receive prophetic words. Encourage recipients to speak to their respective spiritual mentors/leaders about it.



Discussion Questions

As you went through this lesson:

- What is one thing that God desires you to develop in as you minister either in your small groups (life groups) or in church?
- What are some simple steps that you would take to grow in prophetic etiquette?





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