



HOW TO HANDLE PERSONAL PROPHETIC WORDS

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INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells us in Joel 2:28, that in the last days, God will pour out His Spirit, and our sons and daughters will prophesy. We have seen an increase in prophetic voices worldwide, and many are now declaring “Thus says the Lord.” The prophetic gift is very alive in the world today, and God has called many prophets to release His words to His people.

With the rise of prophets comes the rise of false prophets, diviners, and psychics, who claim to have a word from the spirit realm. Deception from false prophets has increased, and Jesus warned us about it in Mark 13:32. He said that false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive people, including believers.

For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God’s chosen ones. – Mark 13:22

If we are to hold on to the truth and let go of the false, we need to know how to distinguish the two. When you receive a genuine personal prophecy, you must steward it well to avoid disappointment. Misinterpretation of a prophetic word can leave you spiritually wounded when it doesn’t come to pass in the way you thought it would.

God wants His words to bless us, not tear us down because we misunderstood Him. We have to take the time to understand our personal prophecies and be clear about what God means. He gives us prophecies to strengthen, encourage and comfort us (1 Corinthians 14:3). They are not meant to judge or harm us, but He uses them to lovingly guide us along the path of righteousness.

There are 7 things you can do today to establish the authenticity of a prophetic word spoken over your life, and they will form the main discussion in this eBook.

In this eBook, you will learn:

1. What to do when you receive a personal prophetic word
2. How to identify genuine and false prophecies

WHY WE NEED TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PROPHETIC WORDS

1. Hold on to the truth

We need to know how to handle prophetic words so that we can only hold on to the words that come from the Spirit of God through genuine prophets. Not everyone who prophesies over your life is doing so by the Holy Spirit. The last thing you want is to walk around with a false prophetic word that will never come to pass. You want the comfort of knowing that the prophecy you received came from the Lord so that you can claim it and act on it.

2. Avoid getting impatient and disappointed

Many fail to understand that prophecies are for an appointed time. When this happens, they strive to fulfil their prophetic words in their strength and don't see anything happen. They then get disappointed with God and are no longer interested in the prophecies. We must not rush to make our personal prophecies come to pass using our strength, cleverness or human wisdom. They are for an appointed time.

Many have shelved their personal prophecies because they thought they would never come to pass given the time that had passed since their pronouncement. God will always keep His promises to you at His appointed time. Some prophecies come to pass in a short amount of time, while others take longer.

3. Avoid being hurt by some prophets

Many believers have been hurt by prophetic people who claim to know what is wrong in their lives and then say nothing. This leaves you frustrated and in suspense because you want insight into what could be causing your challenging situation.

God will always have a way of delivering His message to you, and you don't have to worry about prophets who misuse their prophetic gift. Such prophets can cause you spiritual damage, and you don't have to allow them to speak into your life. Knowing how to handle prophetic words will guard you against those prophets who come at you in this manner.

4. Guard your heart

You may find that things turn out quite the opposite of the prophecy you received. When you don't know how to handle personal prophecies, you can react negatively and blame God or the prophet who gave you the prophecy. Remember Joseph in the book of Genesis? He had a dream that he would be great one day. Immediately after, his unhappy brothers sold him to merchants headed to Egypt. Joseph became a slave and went to prison before his prophecy came to pass.

If you understand what is happening in the spiritual realm when your prophetic word is released, you will be better placed to hold on until you see it come to pass. You will be empowered to guard your heart when things in your life seem contrary to the prophetic word you received.

5. Avoid taking action on words God never uttered

By learning how to handle personal prophetic words, you will avoid deception, and not take action on prophecies that God never spoke. The Bible says that a prophet can speak presumptuously, though they are not a false prophet. Sometimes, a prophet may get it wrong. We have seen many prophets acknowledge an error in interpreting a prophecy.

When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. – Deuteronomy 18:22

If you act on a prophetic word that came from a prophet's mind or emotions, you may find yourself getting disappointed because it is not a word God spoke and will not come to pass. The prophecy, though given genuinely, is false and God will not confirm it. Imagine holding on to a word that did not come from the Spirit of God only to realise years later when you are angry and bitter at God. You can avoid this by carefully handling personal prophecies.

God gave us His Word and Spirit to help us along our salvation journey. They help us arrive at the truth in various situations in our lives. You do not have to fear prophetic words that don't seem to sit right with you, you have the right to check them against God's Word and the unction of the Holy Spirit.

7 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO ESTABLISH THE AUTHENTICITY OF A PROPHETIC WORD SPOKEN OVER YOUR LIFE

1. Test the spirits

Whenever you receive a prophetic word from someone, always test the spirit by which they speak. This helps you establish that the prophetic word came from the Spirit of God. We live in a day and age when false prophets deceive even the children of God. Compare the word you receive with what God has already spoken to you concerning the issue in question. Is it similar? Is it Biblical? Does it instruct you to do something aligned with God's Word? Does it confirm what God said to you?

God will always confirm a prophetic word He spoke to you through another person. His Spirit will bear witness with your spirit that the prophecy is true. Once you establish that the prophecy is from God, you can receive it and take the action steps that God shows you.

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. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. – 1 John 4:1-3

The girl with the spirit of divination whom Paul encountered when going to the house of prayer greatly annoyed him because of the statement she kept repeating. She kept saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17). She was getting her information from a spirit of divination and not the Spirit of God. Her intention was not to lead people closer to God since she wasn't serving Him.

Paul identified that the slave girl was not a servant of God and cast out the spirit by which she spoke (Acts 16:18). Afterwards, she could not fortune-tell because her source of spiritual knowledge was gone. Don't be fooled by those who seem to tell you things about your life that seem true, their end goal is to defile you and turn you away from God.

2. Check the prophecy against the Word of God

When you receive a prophetic word, confirm it with the Word of God because He does not give a spoken word that does not align with His written Word. Checking a prophetic word with the Bible will assure you of its authenticity.

The Bereans were an interesting group of people. They checked the Scriptures every day they heard Paul's preaching to make sure that what he said aligned with God's Word. This is how we ought to treat prophetic words so that we can hold on to the truth and avoid deception.

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. – Acts 17:11

If a prophet or prophetic person gives you a word that contradicts Scripture, then you cannot receive it into your spirit. If you do, you will be holding on to a false prophecy. If the prophet giving you the prophecy is unhappy about you confirming it with God, that is a major red flag. The prophetic words God gives you always line up with His Word.

By reading the Bible every day, you will have the wisdom to test prophetic words when you receive them.

3. Check if the prophecy resonates with your spirit

If you look back at some of the prophetic words you received, you will notice that some did not resonate with you. You didn't want to dismiss them because you are not to despise prophecies. What do you do with such prophetic words that do not even agree with what God spoke to you? Prophetic words need to resonate with your spirit because it is empowered by the Holy Spirit living in you to detect the truth.

*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.
– 1 John 2:20*

The Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that a word is true or false. Check with your spirit next time you are given a prophetic word.

If a personal prophecy does not resonate with your spirit, pray and ask God to show you why. If it still does not agree with your spirit, then let it go. This way, the prophetic word will not hold you captive and keep you in bondage.

The inner knowing you have from the Holy Spirit helps you guard against falsehood. If you receive a prophetic word, which a prophet misinterpreted or declared presumptuously, it will definitely not resonate with you.

4. Pray over your prophetic words

Considering that you are likely to receive personal prophecies when you come across prophetic people, it is good practice to pray over the words you receive. Prayer is important because it helps you partner with God in the fulfilment of your prophecies. You need to take action steps, and God will show you when you seek Him in prayer.

In 1 Timothy 1:18, Paul told his spiritual son, Timothy, to wage war using the personal prophecies he had received. Prophetic words help us engage in the war we face daily concerning our Christian faith, and the assault from the enemy. As we pray and declare our prophetic words, we have the victory we need to win our daily battles.

Prophets know your prophecy in part as 1 Corinthians 13:9 shows, and they don't have the full picture. As you pray, God will give you more revelation and make everything clear.

Pray before making a major life decision based on a prophetic word you received. The prophetic word you have received will attract spiritual warfare like when Herod and Pharaoh wanted to kill baby boys when Moses and Jesus were born.

As you pray over your prophetic words, God will also reveal to you whether they are for the near future, or they will take a while to manifest.

5. Wait on God to fulfill the prophetic word

Waiting on God to fulfil your prophecy does not mean that you do so passively. Actively engage with your prophetic word without attempting to bring it to pass in your strength. You don't have to force doors to open or make things happen in your strength. Wait on God.

Sometimes it is tempting to help God bring your prophecy to pass when it is taking too long, and you feel that time is running out.

Waiting is an important part of the process of the fulfilment of your personal prophecies. It builds your faith and tests it. Joseph had his faith tested when his prophecy, which came via a dream took years to manifest. In the meantime, the prophecy tested him, and as you know, he never lost his faith in God.

He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord tested him. – Psalm 105:17-19

Many walk away from their personal prophecies because they take longer to come to pass and end up forgetting about them. They don't see how the prophecy will come to pass after such a long time. A prophetic word may come to pass in a way you never expected, and it is good to keep an open mind as you wait on God.

6. Is the person releasing the prophetic word born again?

A genuine prophet of God is one who is born again and is a disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who gives a believer the call to be a prophet as Ephesians 4:11 tells us. "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers." 1 Corinthians 12:10 lists the gift of prophecy as among those given by the Holy Spirit.

A person giving you a prophetic word needs to be born again because they have the Spirit of God in them. Prophecy is the Word of God, and He gives it to those who have His Spirit living in them.

Many claim to be prophets of God, yet they are not born again. They are especially found in churches that do not believe in being born again or have a way of salvation that does not involve Christ but works of the flesh. When someone gives you a prophetic word and they are not born again, they are not prophesying by the Spirit of God. They are probably doing so by a spirit of divination (Acts 16:16) or familiar spirits (Leviticus 20:27).

A word that does not come from God will defile you.

Give no regard to mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. – Leviticus 19:31

Always ensure that you only receive prophetic words from those who are born again to avoid getting entangled with false prophets.

7. Do not share your personal prophecy with everyone

Not everyone will be happy to hear your prophetic word of breakthrough or a great blessing coming your way. Pray and ask God to show you who you can share your prophecy with. Joseph shared his prophetic dream with his brothers and they hated him (Genesis 37:5). They were not happy about the greatness that would follow him and not them. They were already jealous of him because he was his father's favourite son.

Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit and later sold him to merchants headed to Egypt. He became a slave, went to prison, and finally became the second in command to Pharaoh many years later. Sharing his dream with his brothers cost him dearly, but God made it turn out for his good. The last thing you want is a delay in the fulfilment of your prophetic words because someone sabotaged your plan of action.

The men who shared their dreams with Joseph shared them with the right person, because he gave them an interpretation with the help of God (Genesis 40:8). When we share our prophetic words with trusted friends or mentors, they will give us godly counsel, and will not lead us astray.

We don't know how the life of Joseph would have turned out had he not told his brothers his dream, but we do know that it was not a good idea to share it with them. Avoid falling into the trap Joseph fell into because of the excitement of wanting to share something great with them.

PROPHETS PROPHECY AS GOD GIVES THEM A WORD FOR A PERSON

Some people assume that a prophet should be ready with a “word from the Lord” when they want one. Family and friends are notorious for this when they have a relative who is a prophet. They assume that anytime they want to know anything about their lives, the prophet should oblige and give them a prophecy. This is not how we ought to view or utilize the prophetic gift.

If you have a friend or family member who is a prophet or has the prophetic gift, give them a break. If they have a word from the Lord for you well and good, if not have a normal conversation with them. Remember that God speaks to you, and you don't have to keep going to a prophet anytime you want to know what God is saying about your life.

Don't go chasing prophetic words because you will be vulnerable to deception. False prophets target those who are desperate for prophecies and think that they can't hear God speak. God speaks to you every day and confirms what He says to you through others as well. If you ask Him anything concerning your life, He will answer you. As you read your Bible, He will reveal things about your life.

HOW TO IDENTIFY FALSE PROPHECIES

False prophecies are those the Lord never spoke over your life. They are mostly from false prophets, who do not speak by the Spirit of God. Their words are lies, and you should not believe them.

A genuine prophet can speak a word that was not from God because he or she spoke presumptuously or from their mind (Deuteronomy 18:22). The prophetic word they give in this case is false, and will not come to pass. If you establish that such a prophecy is false, then do not hold on to it, but do not consider such a prophet as false.

A prophetic word spoken by a person who is not born again is likely to be a false prophecy. This person does not have the Spirit of God living in them, and the prophecy they utter by another spirit will defile you.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. – Romans 8:9

Paul did not agree with the girl with the spirit of divination because it was a demonic spirit speaking through her. Her words bothered him. If God confirms that a prophetic word did not come from Him, do not hold on to it; let it go.

By agreeing with a false prophecy, you agree with the spirit behind it, and you give it access to bear evil fruit in your life. If you have ever agreed with a false prophecy, repent and cancel the word and declare that it will not come to pass in your life.

CONCLUSION

When God has a prophetic word for you, He will find a way to get it to you. Do not substitute hearing God for yourself by looking for any prophet known to have powerful words from God. Learn to hear God for yourself because He gave you the Holy Spirit – who lives in you – to lead you towards the truth.

Keep in mind that God can speak to you personally or through a prophet. If He leads you to a prophet to give you a prophecy, it will be by His will.

When you seek God concerning your prophetic words, you are assured of holding on to the truth and avoiding deception. The fulfilment of your prophecies will show you the power of God and His ability to do the impossible in your life.

As you learn how to handle your personal prophecies, you will find it easier to detect genuine and false prophecies when you hear them. Trust that God will always lead you to the truth about what He saying about your life.

God bless you!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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