

Teacher: John Burton

Teaching Title: Prophetic Breakthrough

- I. Office vs. Gift
 - a. There's a difference between the office of prophet and the gift of prophecy.
 1. Focus is different
 - a. Regions, systems
 2. Authority is different
 - a. Authorized to pull down regional strongholds
 3. Revelation is different
 - a. Church and region instructions vs personal insight
 - b. Direction and correction vs encouragement
 - ii. All can prophesy but not all are prophets.
 1. *"... you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets."* (1 Corinthians 14:30–32, ESV)
 2. The gift of prophecy should never be used in a negative fashion.
 - a. The focus is an individual vs. a system.
 - b. Systems don't need to be encouraged. People do.
 - c. Prophecy the answer, not the problem.
 3. The office of prophet can release these types of words.
 - a. Graham Cooke: "It takes fourteen years for a person to develop into a prophet after being called."
 - i. To be a prophet is a calling. To minister in prophecy is a gift. ~Kris Valloton
 - iii. Many prophesy the dirt in spite of the gold.
 1. Authentic prophecy encourages. It finds the gold.
 - a. *"... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation."* (1 Corinthians 14:3, ESV)
 - b. True prophetic ministry reveals gold that is hidden.
 - i. These mysteries will change the course of history when revealed.
 - ii. They will alter the course of a person's life and eternity.
 1. *"But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you."* (1 Corinthians 14:24–25, ESV)
- II. Contending for the gift
 - a. We are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

2. Open vision
 - a. You actually see it.
 - b. Me seeing the monsters
- iii. Dreams
 1. Virtual Reality Dream
 - a. Occurs while we sleep and we remember it when waking.
 - b. *“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”* (Daniel 2:31–35, ESV)
 2. Reality Dream
 - a. An actual experience while sleeping that we remember when waking
 - b. The spirit world never sleeps, so our spirit can interact with the spirit world while our soul sleeps.
 - c. *“But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, “Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.””* (Genesis 20:3, ESV)
 - i. God actually came to him.
 - d. *“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.””* (Matthew 2:13, ESV)
 - i. An angel actually appeared to Joseph.
- iv. God’s still small voice
 1. A passing thought
 2. Sudden impression
 3. Internal “sense” of something that God is saying.

4. *“And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”” (1 Kings 19:11–13, ESV)*

v. Angels

1. *“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.” (Acts 8:26, ESV)*
2. *“Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands.” (Acts 12:6–7, ESV)*

vi. Trances

1. Trances are much like visions, except that when we are in a trance, we are completely unaware of our surroundings.
 - a. The Greek word for trance means "to be out of your mind."
 - b. Trances take us out of our natural minds and into God's.
 - c. *“The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.” (Acts 10:9–11, ESV)*

vii. Creation

1. Simply appreciating the brilliance of nature
 - a. *“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20, ESV)*
2. Causing nature to do things that are prophetic acts
 - a. Story of Manitou flood

viii. Scriptures

1. God can highlight a specific scripture.

- a. *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, ESV)*

ix. Tongues

1. Interpretation

- a. *“For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:8–11, ESV)*

x. Impressions

1. Oftentimes we can sense an evil spirit on someone just by sitting down next to that person.

- a. The evil spirit that is troubling the person who is next to us will begin to trouble us in the same manner.

xi. Prophetic acts

1. *“And coming to us, he took Paul’s belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’ ”” (Acts 21:11, ESV)*

2. Driving stakes in Detroit that resulted in flood

xii. Signs and wonders

1. Mist of God’s presence
2. Gold dust in girl’s hair
3. Oil on hands

xiii. Mind reading

1. Jesus demonstrated this prophetic ability over and over again in His ministry.

- a. He would answer questions that no one asked because He knew what was on their minds.

2. *“But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls.” (Luke 11:17, ESV)*
- xiv. Circumstances
1. Open and closed doors
 2. Story of us moving away from IHOP
- xv. Dance
1. Oftentimes, God will begin to choreograph a supernatural, spontaneous dance, which is actually a prophetic act that the Lord is speaking to us through the dance.
- xvi. Prophetic songs
1. Often during worship the Lord will give someone a spontaneous song that is from God to the people.
 - a. It is common for God to give the prophetic singer the lyrics and the melody.
 2. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16, ESV)*
- xvii. Prophetic body checks
1. Sometimes the Lord will communicate His desire to heal someone else's body by causing pain or a sensation in a certain part of the prophetic person's body; it typically correlates to the sickness in the person that God wants to heal.
- xviii. Spiritual happenings
1. These are supernatural incidents that correlate with natural events.
 - a. Notice that in the Book of Numbers, Aaron's rod came alive after being dead, and bore blossoms and ripe almonds as a sign from God that he was anointed to be a leader of Israel.
 2. *““Speak to the people of Israel, and get from them staffs, one for each fathers' house, from all their chiefs according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. Write each man's name on his staff, and write Aaron's name on the staff of Levi. For there shall be one staff for the head of each fathers' house. Then you shall deposit them in the tent of meeting before the testimony, where I meet with you. And the staff of the man whom I choose shall sprout. Thus I will make to cease from me the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against you.” Moses spoke to the people of Israel. And all their chiefs gave him staffs, one for each chief, according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. And the staff of Aaron was among their staffs. And Moses deposited the*

staffs before the LORD in the tent of the testimony. On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.” (Numbers 17:2–8, ESV)

- IV. Part/Day Two: Judging Prophetic Words
- a. Kris Vallotton: In First Thessalonians, Paul instructs us not to despise prophetic utterances.
 - i. Many churches, in response to poor prophetic ministry, have altogether eliminated the gifts of the Spirit from their services and teachings.
 - ii. We also learn that a prophetic word should be examined carefully, and that we should hold on to what is found to be good.
 1. Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).
 2. Paul's exhortation, however, is that the Kingdom of God does not consist of words but of power (see 1 Cor. 4). He also reminds us, "That our faith should not rest on the wisdom of man but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:5).
 - b. Prophets Can Make Mistakes Without Being False Prophets
 - i. "Let two or three prophets speak and let the others pass judgment" (1 Corinthians 14:29).
 - ii. Many people in the church have a problem believing that a real prophet of God can make a mistake while prophesying.
 1. They assume only false prophets make mistakes.
 2. In First Corinthians, we are exhorted to let two or three prophets speak in a service and to let the other prophets offer judgment on the word.
 3. The truth is that even the apostles and prophets in the Bible gave prophecies that were not entirely accurate.
 4. One example is in Acts 21.
 - a. Agabus the prophet prophesied that the Jews in Jerusalem would bind Paul and hand him over to the Gentiles.
 - b. As we were staying there for some days; a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.
 - c. And coming to us he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'in this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles'" (Acts 21:10-11).
 - d. What actually happened: the Gentiles rescued Paul from the Jews.

- e. At once he took along some soldiers and centurions and ran down to them; and when they saw the commander and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.
 - f. Then the commander came up and took hold of him, and ordered him to be bound with chains; and he began asking who he was and what he had done (Acts 21:32-33).
 - g. In verse 30 of Acts chapter 22, the commander turned Paul over to the Jews.
 - h. This was the opposite of what Agabus prophesied.
 - i. But on the next day, wishing to know for certain why he had been accused by the Jews, he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the counsel to assemble and brought Paul down and set him before him (Acts 22:30).
 - j. It is obvious that Agabus was correct about the heart of what God was saying, but he got the details slightly mixed up.
5. Another example of a prophetic word that was not entirely accurate can be found in Acts 27:10.
- a. Here Paul says, "If we sail on, we will lose the ship and we will all die."
 - b. However, later in verses 22 and 23 of that Acts chapter 27, Paul is corrected by an angel who says, "There shall be no loss of life, but only the ship."
 - c. This may seem like a minor mistake unless you happen to be one of the men on the ship!
 - d. Theologically, some people quote Deuteronomy chapter 18 as evidence that a prophet is false if some of their prophecies are inaccurate.
 - e. We need to understand the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament prophetic ministry.
 - f. I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command (Deuteronomy 18:18).
 - g. But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die (Deuteronomy 18:20).
- c. Old Testament Versus New Testament Prophecy
- i. In the Old Testament, prophets received the word of the Lord.
 - ii. In the New Testament, prophetic people perceive the word of the Lord.

- iii. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God did not live inside of man, nor had the spirit of man been brought to life.
 - 1. Therefore, when a prophet in the Old Testament heard from God, it was an occasion because Christ was not living inside of them.
 - iv. In this new dispensation, our spirit is alive and the Holy Spirit lives inside of us.
 - 1. Now, as Christians, we daily interact with the spirit world.
 - 2. It is easy to confuse the Holy Spirit's words with our newly regenerated spirit's words.
 - 3. Remember, now we can have a spiritual experience without the Holy Spirit's participation.
 - a. Remember, the sources of spiritual revelation:
 - i. Holy Spirit
 - ii. Demons
 - iii. Angels
 - iv. Our own spirit
 - v. In the Old Testament, what the prophet said was equal to the Word of the LORD and kings made extremely important decisions at their word, like going to war.
 - 1. There was no discerning of spirits.
 - 2. They literally heard God speak to them so there was no confusion.
 - a. 10 commandments, for example.
 - 3. The words of the prophet had to be 100% accurate.
 - 4. If not, they were regarded as false and put to death.
 - a. *"But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die."*
(Deuteronomy 18:20, ESV)
 - vi. The reason why prophecy in the Old Testament was not spiritually judged (except to kill the prophet or to wait to see if the prophecy would come to pass) is because the people were spiritually dead.
 - 1. They had no spiritual paradigm by which to process spiritual information.
 - 2. In the New Testament church, however, the Christian who receives the word has as much responsibility to judge the word as the one who gave it because both the giver and receiver have the same Holy Spirit living inside of them.
- V. Guidelines for judging prophetic words
- a. The word must be congruent with the Scriptures as well as the heart of Father God.
 - i. But even if we, or an angel from Heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed (Galatians 1:8).

- b. It must bear witness with the spirit of the one who receives it.
 - i. The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16).
 - c. The fruit of the prophetic word must be that the person receiving it is brought closer to God and His people.
 - d. The prophets and leadership should be in agreement with the word and its interpretation and application.
 - e. The interpretation of any prophetic revelation belongs to God, not to man. Therefore, we also need the Holy Spirit's anointing to know the meaning of the word as well as what to do with it.
 - i. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God (2 Peter 1:20-21).
 - ii. Sometimes when we receive a prophetic word, we don't realize what it means until after it has been fulfilled.
- VI. Looking Into the Heart of the Matter
- a. In the Book of Exodus, God tells Moses that He is going to kill the people that Moses led out of Egypt because they are obstinate and evil.
 - i. Moses argues with the Lord that they are the Lord's people He led out of Egypt.
 - ii. After a long debate, God changes His mind and leads the people into the Promised Land.
 - iii. Why would God prophesy to Moses something He didn't really want to do?
 1. Sometimes when God speaks to us, He is testing our hearts more than He is determining our destiny.
 2. God was determining if Moses had the heart it would take to lead His people.
 3. So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people (Exodus 32:14).
 - b. Traditionally, the church has had a single dimensional way to judge prophecy. But God is calling us into a deeper relationship with Him. This will lead us into new ways of judging prophetic ministry.
 - i. The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."
 - ii. Then Moses entreated the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and

change Your mind about doing harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" So the Lord changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people (Exodus 32:9-14).

- c. Referring again to Agabus the prophet, he ministers to the apostle Paul by telling him that if he goes to Jerusalem he will be bound and arrested.
 - i. Paul doesn't think the prophetic word means that God doesn't want him to go, but rather that God is telling him to count the cost.
 - ii. This emphasizes the need to look into the heart of God to truly understand what He wants instead of what He seems to be saying.
 - 1. As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:10-13).
- d. ACTIVATION
 - i. There are transmission issues and tuning issues regarding hearing God's voice.
 - 1. Transmission: The signals aren't being sent.
 - a. In the old days at midnight, networks would sign off and all you'd see is static.
 - b. What causes God to stop transmitting?
 - i. Sin
 - ii. Unbelief
 - iii. Apathy
 - iv. Lack of holiness
 - 2. Tuning: The signals aren't being received.
 - a. What causes us to not hear God's transmissions?
 - i. Lack of intimacy
 - ii. Lack of prayer
 - iii. Lack of training in the prophetic
 - iv. Too much background noise
 - v. Competing transmissions
 - ii. Soaking time

1. Ask for God to reveal both transmission and tuning issues.
 2. Expect a different result when seeking to hear God's voice.
- VII. What makes a false prophet?
- a. There are two types of false prophets.
 - i. The first type is comprised of people who have invited a spirit of divination into their lives.
 1. The gift, which enables them to prophesy, comes from an evil spirit and has nothing to do with God.
 2. The gift is from hell and these people have let their hearts turn to evil.
 3. What is important to note: although the word is coming from a spirit of divination, it can still be accurate!
 4. Acts chapter 16 illustrates this principle through a false prophetess who has the right word, but the wrong spirit.
 - a. It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bondservants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment (Acts 16:16-18).
 - ii. The second type of false prophets is the group of people who receive a call on their lives to be a prophet or prophetess from birth or after they receive Christ, yet they later fall away from God.
 1. Interestingly, in Romans 11:29, it states that the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.
 2. Even if we fall away from God, we would still be able to operate in the gifts.
 3. However, this gift would not be in our control, but would be turned over to the hands of the evil one.
 4. In Numbers chapters 22 through 24, we read about a false prophet named Balaam.
 5. It is clear in the Scripture that Balaam is getting his prophetic revelation from God, but he is trying to use his gift to curse God's people so he can make money.
 6. Balaam has a gift from God but a heart from hell.
 - iii. According to Matthew, false prophets have certain characteristics.

1. Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness." Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall (Matthew 7:15-27).
- iv. The following are the common threads that run through the lives of the type of false prophet described in Matthew chapter 7:
 1. 1. False prophets appear to be good—like sheep—but are really like wolves.
 - a. They are the enemy of the sheep.
 - b. The bad fruit that they bear is not a false gift but rather an evil heart.
 - c. Remember, these people will say to Jesus, "Did we not prophesy in Your name and cast out demons in Your name?" But He will say to them, "I never knew you." He calls them "lawless."
 - d. It is interesting how Jesus defines "lawless" in Matthew chapter 7 in the description of the two different men building houses.
 - e. He considered the one who heard His words but did not act on them to be lawless!
 - f. Notice also that the Lord equates knowing Him with keeping His Word.

- a. One thing to note is that false prophets are antichrist in nature. They are not anti-Jesus.
 - b. The word Christ means "the anointed one."
 - c. The anointing is always related to the power of God.
 - d. Beware of people who try to tell you that Jesus doesn't do miracles anymore.
 - e. According to Paul in Second Corinthians chapter 11, there is another "Jesus" who is not the Christ (anointed one).
 - f. The Jesus we serve was anointed yesterday, is anointed today, and will be anointed forever!
 - i. You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:4-6).
2. False prophets do not like to listen to anyone; in their own minds, God tells them everything.
- a. False prophets are hyper-spiritual in their conversations and begin most of their statements with, "The Lord said to me..." or "God told me...."
 - b. I have found over the years that this is just a rather spiritual way of saying, "I don't want your input!"
 - c. They are not under any authority but their own.
 - i. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that

the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world (1 John 4:7-17).

3. 3. False prophets are not motivated by love but are motivated by a need to be noticed.
 - a. The central theme of all ministries must be the love of God.
 - b. We must ask ourselves: Am I in the ministry for the purpose of bringing out the best in people?
 - c. Do I have the kind of love that covers a multitude of sins?
 - d. We love because He first loved us.
 - i. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also (1 John 4:19-21).
4. 4. False prophets commonly use fear to motivate people.
 - a. "Doom and gloom" tend to be the main thrusts of the false prophets' message.
 - b. They also say things like, "God showed me something about you, but I can't tell you."
 - c. This kind of statement breeds insecurity in people.
 - d. False prophets revel in thinking that they "have something on you" that you don't know about!
 - i. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love (1 John 4:18).
5. 5. False prophets are not in covenant relationship with the Body of Christ.
 - a. I have yet to observe a false prophet who has a healthy relationship with the local body they attend.
 - b. Many do not even attend church at all.

- c. They wander from place to place looking for people who will listen to them.
- d. The word covenant means that we are not in a relationship for what we can get from people but rather for what we can give.
- e. Covenant relationships are costly.
 - i. Jesus, in John 15:13, says, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

VIII. Practicing your gifts

- a. For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:6-7 NKJV)
- b. 1. Prophesy your day.
 - i. When you wake in the morning, pray and ask the Lord for information about something that will happen during your day.
 - ii. Write it down as clearly as you understand it.
 - iii. At the end of the day, check and see if the event that you prophesied to yourself happened.
 - iv. Also see how well you understood the specific details of the event(s).
- c. 2. Practice words of knowledge.
 - i. Go to a restaurant or public place of business and pray for the person who is providing a service for you.
 - ii. Ask the Lord for words of knowledge for the person.
 - iii. It is usually best if you do this when the person is not in your presence.
 - iv. Write down the words of knowledge on a piece of paper.
 - v. Later you can "interview" the person concerning the words of knowledge you received.
 - vi. For example, if you think the Lord showed you that the person you are receiving words for has three children; you can simply ask him or her if they have any children.
 - vii. If the answer is yes, you can inquire how many, etc.
 - viii. When you are first learning, I would suggest you not tell the person that you have words of knowledge from God.
 - ix. In the beginning, this practice is more about you growing in your gift than about ministering.
 - x. As your ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit improves, you will begin to step out in boldness and faith.
- d. 3. Team up with another person.
 - i. Enlist the help of a prayer partner.
 - ii. Pray for one another and ask the Lord for words of knowledge for each other.

- iii. Take turns sharing what you believe God has shown you.
 - iv. Let the recipient judge the word you are giving to them.
 - v. Obviously, this works best if both of you are trying to grow in your spiritual gifts.
 - vi. It is important in this exercise to be extremely truthful with one another so as to gain an honest assessment of how you are doing.
- e. 4. Words of knowledge for healing.
- i. You can practice words of knowledge for healing in a group setting by simply praying and asking the Lord to show you anyone who is experiencing illness or pain.
 - ii. This will often come as a sensation in your body that directly coincides with the part of someone else's body that the Lord wants to heal.
 - iii. If it is appropriate in the meeting, ask the group if anyone has the specific problem in their body.
 - iv. Then afterward, you should pray for that person and experience the joy of seeing the Lord heal them!
- f. 5. Prophesying as a group.
- i. Another way to practice in a group setting is to choose one member of the group and have the others prophesy to that person.
 - ii. As the words are given, ask a member of the group to write them down.
 - iii. After an adequate number of prophetic words are given, ask the person who received the prophetic words to judge the words and give feedback to the group about the accuracy of the word.
- g. 6. Prophetic intercession.
- i. Prophetic intercession is practiced as we pray.
 - ii. Often in prayer the Lord will give you insight into people's lives.
 - iii. Prophesy the answer to each of these issues that you see in the lives of these people and then ask the Lord to let your paths cross that day.
 - iv. You will be amazed at how many times the Lord will bring people to your mind to pray for—people you haven't seen in months, or even years.
 - v. Most likely, you will soon hear from them.