

FAITH FOR THE FINISH

Prophetic Ministry and the Seasons of God

1. Prophets and prophetic ministry call on us to **believe the promises of God**. (See Amos 3:7.)
2. Prophets and prophetic ministry help us to recognize the **seasons we are in**.
 - a. Season of **Passive Wrath** (Romans 1:18-32)
 - i. "God gave them over..."
 - ii. The Spirit's restraining hand is removed.
 - b. Season of **Active Preparation** (Revelation 19:7-8)
 - i. "The bride has made herself ready..."
 - ii. There is human responsibility in the midst of divine activity.
 - c. Season of **Essential Transition** (Isaiah 60:1-3)
 - i. "Arise and shine..."
 - ii. We are called to come to attention before God and to have the mirror of our souls fully reflective of God's image and glory.
3. Prophetic ministry urges us to **build faith for the finish**. (See John 4:34.)
4. Prophets and prophetic ministry always **point us to Jesus** (Revelation 19:10).
5. The focus of prophetic ministry is not about an office or self-aggrandizing, it is a calling to stewardship and servanthood. **What is happening downstream from the prophet?**
 - a. Are the people of God being equipped to hear and obey the Word of the Lord?
 - b. Are they learning how to see what God is doing and hear what God is saying? (See Acts 2:17-18.)
 - c. Are God's people being strengthened and encouraged? (See Acts 15:32.)
6. Apostles and prophets are **foundational** in the life and work of the church (Ephesians 2:20).
 - a. Prophetic ministry is part of the spiritual genome of the Body of Christ. (See Ephesians 4:11-13.)
7. Prophetic ministry **points out the context** in which God's work is progressing.
 - a. God is currently creating new wineskins. New wineskins are vital for the successful transfer of kingdom resources into earthly vessels. (See Ephesians 1:22-23.)
 - b. Remember—God saves his best wine for last!
 - c. At the end, God's saints, apostles, and prophets are standing shoulder to shoulder in God's work and sharing in his glory. (See Revelation 18:20.)

The Challenge to Our Church

1. Over the course of June, July, and August, every member of Calvary is being challenged to embrace one new spiritual practice in your life.
 - a. Without adding anything to your current schedule, try vectoring everything you're already doing toward God.
 - b. Can you discover a brand new way to serve God, or to worship him, or seek him, or honor him through something you are already doing?

- i. For instance: ask God what check-out line to get into at the store. Follow the impulse of the Spirit, then try to strike up a conversation about God with the person beside you in the line. Here are some possible *starter statements*:
 - (1) *"I've been thinking more about God lately, have you?"*
 - (2) Or, *"God wants me to pray for people I meet. How can I pray for you?"*
 - (3) Just be natural, be normal, be yourself. Learn to listen to the other person and their story. Cultivate the compassion of Jesus in your own heart. (See Matthew 9:36.)
 - ii. Turn your drive time to work into a prayer and praise session. Practice godliness in the way you drive. (See Matthew 5:38-41.)
 - iii. How about asking God to help you memorize a scripture or to give you a life verse for this time in your life? Whatever he gives you, write the scripture out on a note card and tape it to your bathroom mirror. Each morning as you get ready for the day, practice saying your verse until you have it memorized. Ask God to show you how this verse applies to your life today as you go through your normal activities. See if it won't make a difference in your living.
2. One major purpose of these practices is to **let God into your everyday life**. He's already there, so really you are just learning to become aware of him. And that is a vital practice for your spirit's health.
 3. Be sure and **share your new practice with your Journey Group. Pray** for one another to be faithful to your new endeavor in knowing and serving God.
 - a. **Update** each other on how it's going, both the good and the bad.
 - b. **Encourage one another** in your new spiritual practices.
 - c. **Inspire one another** with stories of how you are finding God's presence with you, and his Spirit working through you.
 - d. One of the major aims of such practices is to help us **grow toward whole-heartedness for God**.