

Dealing with the Prophetic

Thesis: The Lord is raising up apostolic and prophetic gifting so that the body of Christ might become the dwelling place of God in the earth. Our church is called to model how the prophetic office operates in the context of a local congregation.

Text: Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:1-13

Today, I want to talk about what God is doing and saying to us as a church family. God is our dwelling place and our home; we are built together to be his dwelling place.

*Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)-- 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. 19 **Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit** (Ephesians 2:11-22).*

God wants to make his home in us. And, the Lord wants the world to see God through his church.

The Lord is raising up apostolic and prophetic gifting so that the body of Christ might become the dwelling place of God in the earth. Our church is called to model how the prophetic office operates in the context of a local congregation.

1. **For Calvary to reach her destiny and be who God has called us to be, we must do what we believe the Lord is saying.**
 - a. Back in 2017, the Lord gave us clear direction.
 - b. We needed to get Pastor Steve into the position where God wanted him to be.
 - c. We needed to get Calvary into the place where we needed to be.
 - d. Therefore, we made a decision as a church.
 - i. In 2017, we moved Pastor Steve into the role of Prophetic Elder so that he could give himself to what the Lord was asking of him.
 - ii. And, Calvary affirmed that I was to move into the Senior Pastor role.
2. **God calls people and puts them into positions.**
 - a. I believe that Pastor Steve is called to be a prophet. In 1988, the Lord launched the current prophetic movement. And, Pastor Steve experienced a prophetic release in October 1988.
 - b. **We need to come to understanding, acceptance, and affirmation of that prophetic anointing and calling on Pastor Steve, or we will miss the benefits of it.**
3. **We need to understand that the prophetic in the New Testament is different than the Old Testament prophet who spoke to kings and nations.**
 - a. In the Old Testament, the prophet was primarily the voice of the Lord to the kings and rulers of his day. The prophet usually acted alone as God's spokesperson to the nations.
 - b. In the New Testament, Scripture teaches us about team ministry. The apostles and prophets of the New Testament serve as a part of team for the benefit of the church (Ephesians 4:11-13).
 - c. In the New Testament, the church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-22).
4. **Scriptures teach us about the 5-fold ministries or offices of the New Testament Church.**
 - a. God still has prophets and apostles today, in addition to evangelists, pastors, teachers.
 - i. *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).*

- b. We need to recognize, understand, and believe that the apostolic and prophetic offices are necessary to what the Lord is doing.
 - c. APEST = 5-fold ministry
 - i. Apostles govern
 - ii. Prophets guide
 - iii. Evangelists gather
 - iv. Shepherds (pastors) guard
 - v. Teachers ground
5. **Listen to what the Lord says about the prophetic ministry or office.**
- a. **Prophetic ministry is a foundational ministry.**
 - i. *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-20).*
 - b. *Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).*
 - i. We have often seen this in Pastor Steve's life. Through the years, Pastor Steve could see where we are headed and what God is doing out there.
 - c. **Believe the Lord your God and you shall be established. Believe his prophets and you shall prosper** (King Jehoshaphat, 2 Chronicles 20:20).
 - d. **Receive a prophet in the name of a prophet and you will receive a prophet's reward** (Matthew 10:41). That is what Jesus said.
 - i. What are the rewards of receiving a prophet in the name of a prophet?
 - ii. We will discover these blessings as we help Pastor Steve express who he is.
6. **We want to step into the things God has said for us a church family.**
- a. As we acknowledge what God is doing, then we experience blessings.
 - b. In Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, Jesus challenges his people 7 times: **let him who has ears to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.**
 - c. And, for those who hear and obey, there are rewards.
7. **The New Testament says that there are prophets.**
- a. What does that look for us as a church family?
 - b. **We are working to figure out how it works for us.**
 - c. Prophets are given an office to provide direction and leadership.
8. **Consider what the Lord says in Ephesians 4:1-16:**
- a. :1-3 Harmony of the body

- b. :4-6 Unity of the body
 - c. :7 – 10 Diversity of the body
 - d. :11 -12 Authority of the body
 - e. :13 – 15 Maturity of the body
 - f. :16 Ministry of the body
9. **Offices are dimensions of the life of Christ. You measure the impact or success of the office by what happens downstream in the people, not in the offices.**
- a. **Apostles:** in grain in the church that we are sent ones; apostolic character, calling, passion, and power; govern.
 - b. **Prophets:** in grain the church that we hear God, listen to God, and obey the Lord; prophets hear the voice of the Lord; guide.
 - c. **Evangelists:** help the body to reach others for Christ; help us to seek and save that which is lost; help us to go into all the world; gather.
 - d. **Shepherds (pastors):** help the body to care for people, nurture people; guard.
 - e. **Teachers:** instruct and help people know God better; ground.
10. **Here is the role of prophet for the church: to point out, declare, and clarify the *now* words of the Lord.**
- a. When we hear the word of the Lord, we need to respond to this word and get in action now.
 - b. Prophets put passion in current words of the Lord.
 - c. Illustration: In Ephesians 3:8-11, Paul had a “now” word from God.
11. **Through the years, the Lord has used Pastor Steve to help us go further in hearing the Lord.**
- a. We are a church that believes that the Lord speaks and we respond to what the Lord is saying. That is the downstream benefit in our lives as Pastor Steve has served in the prophetic office here.
 - b. A couple of years ago with moving Pastor Steve into his role as Prophetic Elder and me into the role of Senior Pastor, **we didn't have a lot of definition.**
 - i. What we do have is relationship.
 - ii. What we do have is a desire to figure how the prophetic works in the body of Christ.
 - iii. And, we believe God is speaking and moving today.
 - c. Pastor Steve's role is to bring God's current words into view. We want to know the priorities, divine initiatives, and current words of the Lord for us
 - d. It is our responsibility to become like Christ.
 - i. Jesus only does what the Father is doing and says what the Father is saying.
 - ii. We need to listen to the Spirit as a congregation.

- e. Part of Pastor Steve's role is to say, "Here is what God is saying to us."
 - i. How will we respond to the Lord?
 - ii. We need to hear what God is saying and respond.
- 12. **Here is an example of how we are seeking to figure how the prophetic works in the body of Christ.**
 - a. In 2017, the Lord began speaking to Pastor Steve about *More of God*.
 - i. In Ephesians 1, Paul teaches some of the greatest doctrine in Scripture from Ephesians 1:1-14.
 - ii. That is not enough. We need to experience God's presence and power (Ephesians 1:15-22).
 - b. Pastor Steve preached some messages on this word about the *More of God* in the fall of 2017.
 - c. In the fall of 2018, Pastor Steve brought this word back to the team.
 - i. So, we as a team prayed through his revelation, processed it, and felt like the Lord was speaking to us about the More of God series and 60/60 Experiment.
 - ii. That was our application and attempt to obey the word of the Lord which we believed Pastor Steve received and was for us as a church family.
 - d. And through Pastor Steve's leadership, we are getting in action around two conferences for the year, regarding the apostolic and prophetic.

Conclusion

The Lord is raising up apostolic and prophetic gifting so that the body of Christ might become the dwelling place of God in the earth. Our church is called to model how the prophetic office operates in the context of a local congregation.

For Calvary to reach her destiny and be who God has called us to be, we must do what we believe the Lord is saying.

This is our time to step up, pray, and respond in faith to what the Lord is saying and doing. I am excited to be with you on this journey.

Ministry Time: Lord's Supper

Remembrance

Hillsong Worship

I take the bread of life
Broken for all my sin
Your body crucified
To make me whole again
I will recall the cup
Poured out in sacrifice
To trade this sinner's end
For Your new covenant
Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget
I'll walk salvation's road
With fear and trembling
Your way borne as my own
As Christ is formed in me
Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget
If ever I should lose my way
If ever I deny Your grace
Remind me of the price You paid
Hallelujah
I'll live in remembrance
You've been so, so good to me
You've been so, so good to me
Oh to think where I would be
If not for You
If not for You (lift you hands)
You've been so, so good to me
You've been so, so good to me
Oh to...