

SHARING (GOD'S VOICE)

SESSION 4 – Authority & Grace

AUTHORITY

Often prophetic people have a fear of leadership.

Jesus submitted to the authority of His parents.

Luke 2:46–52 – Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions.⁴⁷ All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.⁴⁸ His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."⁴⁹ "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?"⁵⁰ But they didn't understand what he meant.⁵¹ Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.⁵² Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.*

Jesus submitted to the leadership of His parents even though He should have been about his Father's business.

Since we know in part and prophecy in part, we must be under authority, correctable, and submissive to someone.

WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY OVER THE WORD?

- There is a **three-fold sharing of the responsibility**:
 1. *The leadership present* (presiding over the meeting or group, the one responsible for the individual being ministered to);
 2. *The person receiving the word*; and
 3. *The person giving the word*.

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- They must be co-equal, sharing together as being in authority; all three are essential—the three hold the key to unlock the word.
- Credibility requires that those who minister prophetically are real people who are honest about where they are in their natural and spiritual walk.

RESPECT THE GOVERNMENT PRESENT

1. God establishes church government

Romans 13:1 – Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Hebrews 13:17 – Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

- The Christian who is humble and submitted to God will recognize the value of submission to spiritual authority and look for legitimate spiritual authority to relate to in a proper way.

2. Flow within the accepted protocol of the particular church or setting you are in.

- Most pastors or leaders are simply attempting to exercise their responsibility to guard their flock from unknown visitors who may or may not have a word that is appropriate for those he or she is responsible to lead.
- Usually, the larger the assembly or the newer the individual is to a group, the more caution a leader will take in releasing public prophetic ministry.
- Find out the protocol of your particular setting and follow it.
- Try to see from the leader's perspective instead of your own prophetic perspective.
- We need to ask what are the parameters for prophetic ministry in the different settings we are in.
- If you just go ahead and minister however and to whomever you want, and the leadership doesn't want it that way, it will do more harm than good.

- Depending on the setting, we want to keep in mind what form of prophetic ministry might be received in a greater way.

The Apostle Paul says that people who share God's voice need to be ones who will receive input from other leaders.

1 Corinthians 14:37 – If you claim to be a prophet or think you are spiritual, you should recognize that what I am saying is a command from the Lord himself.

1 Corinthians 14:38 – But if you do not recognize this, you yourself will not be recognized.

RECOGNIZE THE SETTING

We must realize that there are levels of prophetic anointing that are often dependent upon the situation and opportunity, rather than who is being ministered to and who is doing the ministry.

Caution when ministering over children:

- Are they mature enough to receive the word from the Lord?
- Are their parents present?

MINISTERING ETIQUETTE

Refrain from giving or receiving words from people that were afraid to be given in public. The word requires faith to be ministered.

In service situations, try to flow with what God is already doing; catch the spirit of how it is already flowing.

If going contradictory to flow, check with leadership.

ASK GOD: “What is this person gifted in?”

GRACE

Function within the realm of one's grace.

- It is a combination of skill, experience, and anointing.

2 Corinthians 10:13–14 – *We will not boast about things done outside our area of authority. We will boast only about what has happened within the boundaries of the work God has given us, which includes our working with you.* ¹⁴ *We are not reaching beyond these boundaries when we claim authority over you, as if we had never visited you. For we were the first to travel all the way to Corinth with the Good News of Christ.*

GIFTS GIVEN ACCORDING TO THE GRACE OF GOD

Romans 12:3–8 – *Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.* ⁴ *Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,* ⁵ *so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.* ⁶ *In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.* ⁷ *If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.* ⁸ *If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.*

PAUL'S AND PETER'S GRACE

Galatians 2:7–9 – *Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews.* ⁸ *For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles.* ⁹ *In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews.*

PHILIP AND THE APOSTLES

Acts 8:14–16 – *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there.* ¹⁵

As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

AHIMAAZ AND THE CUSHITE

2 Samuel 18:19–23, 28–33 – Then Zadok's son Ahimaaz said, "Let me run to the king with the good news that the Lord has rescued him from his enemies." ²⁰ "No," Joab told him, "it wouldn't be good news to the king that his son is dead. You can be my messenger another time, but not today." ²¹ Then Joab said to a man from Ethiopia, "Go tell the king what you have seen." The man bowed and ran off. ²² But Ahimaaz continued to plead with Joab, "Whatever happens, please let me go, too." "Why should you go, my son?" Joab replied. "There will be no reward for your news." ²³ "Yes, but let me go anyway," he begged. Joab finally said, "All right, go ahead." So Ahimaaz took the less demanding route by way of the plain and ran to Mahanaim ahead of the Ethiopian.

²⁸ Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "Everything is all right!" He bowed before the king with his face to the ground and said, "Praise to the Lord your God, who has handed over the rebels who dared to stand against my lord the king."

²⁹ "What about young Absalom?" the king demanded. "Is he all right?" Ahimaaz replied, "When Joab told me to come, there was a lot of commotion. But I didn't know what was happening." ³⁰ "Wait here," the king told him. So Ahimaaz stepped aside.

³¹ Then the man from Ethiopia arrived and said, "I have good news for my lord the king. Today the Lord has rescued you from all those who rebelled against you." ³² "What about young Absalom?" the king demanded. "Is he all right?"

And the Ethiopian replied, "May all of your enemies, my lord the king, both now and in the future, share the fate of that young man!" ³³ The king was overcome with emotion. He went up to the room over the gateway and burst into tears. And as he went, he cried, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! O Absalom, my son, my son."

SPHERE OF MINISTRY

Sometimes we want to minister like a prophet and end up entering into a realm that we are not strong in.

Understand Your Sphere of Anointing

It is very important for each of us to discern and know our particular "sphere" of authority.

Paul knew, for instance, he was an apostle to some but not to others. He knew his sphere. (1 Corinthians 9:2)

If you study the callings and portfolios of the Old Testament prophets, you discover:

- Some were called to nations;
- Some were called to one particular group such as Judah; etc.,
- Some were called to a particular city – the extent of Jonah's prophetic ministry.

Each of us has a sphere, level of anointing. Be careful not to presume more than what we have.

You are at the level at which people receive your ministry. You are not an international prophet until others in the international leadership accept you as such.

Numbers 11:25–29 – And the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Then he gave the seventy elders the same Spirit that was upon Moses. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But this never happened again.

²⁶ Two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed behind in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but they had not gone out to the Tabernacle. Yet the Spirit rested upon them as well, so they prophesied there in the camp.

²⁷ A young man ran and reported to Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!"

²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' assistant since his youth, protested, "Moses, my master, make them stop!"

²⁹ But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put his Spirit upon them all!"

Mark 9:38–41 – John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group."

³⁹ "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Anyone who is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded."

To ensure we work within the grace God has given us, here are some questions to ask ourselves:

1. *Is there someone here to judge the word?*
2. *Is this the right time to give this word?*
3. *Am I the right person to minister this word or thought?*

Not all things that we sense are for the present or to be disclosed at the present time.

OTHER AREAS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY

1. Establish and Equip (putting people in their place of ministry)

Ephesians 2:20 – Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

Ephesians 4:11–13 – Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

2. Confer or impart

1 Timothy 4:14 – Do not neglect the spiritual gift you received through the prophecy spoken over you when the elders of the church laid their hands on you.

2 Timothy 1:6 – This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

3. Direct - Predict

2 Kings 8:1 – Elisha had told the woman whose son he had brought back to life, "Take your family and move to some other place, for the Lord has called for a famine on Israel that will last for seven years."

Acts 13:1-2 – Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from

Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. ² One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them."

4. Correct

1 Corinthians 14:31 – In this way, all who prophesy will have a turn to speak, one after the other, so that everyone will learn and be encouraged.

The above areas are the ones everyone wants to flow in and show that they have strength in. These areas are the least likely most people will minister in, since they are mostly at a leadership level. They require a different grace and authority level.

ASK GOD: "What do You want to say to this person?"