

SALVATIONISM 301

Lieutenant Elaine Gillingham

INTRODUCTION PROPHETIC

Lieutenant Elaine Gillingham:

Along with her husband Ian, Elaine serves as Corps Officer of the Brockville Corps in Ontario, Canada. She has been excavating the old salvation wells originally dug by General William Booth concerning dreams and visions. Burdened to intercede for her generation, Elaine is extending it to the next by bringing up her children to walk in the Spirit.

Elaine contributes our chapter on
THE PROPHETIC.

What's it all about?

Too often we envision desert wild men decked out in camel-skin and feasting on locusts. But that is not what it's all about!

The prophetic has to do with hearing from God and relaying what you've heard to others. Sure, it can include future events, but it can also provide a divine perspective on the present situation.

God communicates to us in many ways such as dreams, visions, the Bible, other people, pictures, impressions, and even audible voice!

The prophetic is made up of revelation, interpretation, and wisdom (for application). God grant us wisdom to apply the lessons of this enlightening chapter!

RESOURCES:

Books:

Mike Bickle. GROWING IN THE PROPHETIC.
Graham Cooke. DEVELOPING YOUR PROPHETIC GIFTING.
Jack Deere. SURPRISED BY THE VOICE OF GOD.
Rick Joyner. THE FINAL QUEST.
John Bevere. THUS SAITH THE LORD?
Paula and John Sandford. THE ELIJAH TASK.

CD: AWAKEN THE GIANT (Intercession for Revival in The Salvation Army– armybarmy.com).

Movies: THE MATRIX (awakening to another spiritual reality)

Online: armybarmy.com

Friends Of The Bridegroom: fotbg.com (Mike Bickle's weekly teaching on Intercession, Prayer, Prophetic)

MorningStar Ministries: morningstarministries.org (This prophetic ministry is led by Rick Joyner)

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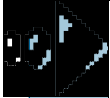
Prophetic One



"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy" 1 Corinthians 14:1 *"...desire earnestly to prophesy..."*
1 Corinthians 14:39; 1 Corinthians 14:1-5; 24-33; 39; Ephesians 4: 11-16.



"All would hear the Holy Spirit if they listen to His voice"
(John Gowans, SASB 324).
"No church can afford to kill off its prophets... What the Army needs is prophets clad in red jerseys gifted with wisdom"
(John Larsson, THE MAN PERFECTLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, p36).



Just recently we in the Canada and Bermuda Territory enjoyed a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing through our midst. The wind came quite unexpectedly and left even more so. Like any wind it blew down some cobwebs, it stirred up some dust and leaves. In some places the wind was received and enjoyed for its refreshing breeze. In other places it was seen as a nuisance or disruption.

The wind came in the form of Commissioner Norman Howe. He came briefly to our territory to lead and with him he brought a 'word from the Lord.' The Lord spoke to him three words that he was responsible to proclaim throughout the Canada and Bermuda Territory. "Prepare for revival!" From Vancouver Island to Newfoundland the word was preached, "Prepare for revival." To young and old the word went forth, "Prepare for revival." And a stirring took place within the ranks throughout the command. From North to South and East to West people were buzzing, "Have you heard the word? Prepare for revival!!!"

These three words alone, spoken with the unction of the Holy Spirit, brought hope and faith back to many lives. They were words of exhortation, encouragement, vision and instruction. These words were like fresh water being poured out on a dry and thirsty tree. God was saying to us in Canada, "I'm not finished with you yet. I'm going to breath my life back into your dry bones. I'm going to, 'put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live'" (Ezekiel 37:6).

This is how prophecy is upon the life of the believer- it gives breath to those who feel like they are suffocating- it puts flesh back on what feels like it is bare and naked. It gives life where there is death. Prophecy literally builds up the Army of God- "precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little" (Isaiah 28:13). This is why Paul exhorts us to eagerly desire the gift of prophecy. Prophecy is essential to the health and growth of God's people. It is essential for the preparation of the Bride of Christ so that she becomes, "a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27).

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Has the Church reached the fullness of Christ? Is the Bride without spot, wrinkle or blemish? The last time I checked we were still a ways off from coming into the maturity that the Spirit breathes into Paul's vision. But we are on the road there. To enter into that fullness we need the prophets of God emerge and take their appointed place.

Obviously the Army is crying out for the prophetic gifting to be exercised. We know that the Holy Spirit has given the gift. It is a matter of the people of God earnestly desiring it and stepping out in faith to exercise the gift. There are very few times that I have heard someone speak in The Salvation Army that they have a 'word from the Lord'. I believe it took a lot of courage and faith for Commissioner Howe to travel our command prophesying God's word for this territory. By his action many were stirred to response and renewed in mission.



1. Have you ever received a word from God that was to be shared with others?
2. What did you do?
3. How do you know when you have heard from God?
4. What keeps people from speaking what they believe God has spoken to them?



Take some time today to wait on the Lord and ask Him to give you a prophetic word. Keep you Bible open but even more than that keep the ears of your heart open to hear what the Spirit is saying to YOU! Then write the word down and be obedient to it.

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Prophetic Two



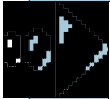
"The Lord confides in those who fear Him; he makes his covenant known to them" (Psalm 25:14).

"Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7 & Luke 1:39-45).



"Finney, Wesley, Fletcher, Bramwell, Catherine Booth, and scores of others walked with God, as Enoch did, and so walked 'in the power of the Spirit' and constantly, as to be soul winners all their lives" (Samuel Logan Brengle, in Steve and Sharon Bussey, GENETIC CODES, p132).

"Like Paul we have to say, 'one at a time; you shall all prophesy'... When people get it, it bubbles up and runs over. It is in them 'a well of water springing up', as our great Master said, 'into everlasting life'" (Catherine Booth, GODLINESS. p69).



One day Mary decided to get away from Nazareth and she headed to her relative Elizabeth's house. Things were getting a little bit tense in her neck of the woods and she just needed to escape. She was tired of all of the deathly glares that were shot her way; the friends who passed her in the market place without even saying a word. And if she heard one more person whisper just a little bit too loudly as she passed by she was afraid she would really lose it. Getting away was the best thing to do. Upon arriving Mary greeted Elizabeth. The Greek word is 'aspazomai', "the basic sense (of which) seems to be 'to embrace'" (Kittel, THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT). Mary embraced Elizabeth. Not coincidentally, Elizabeth, in embracing the pregnant Mary, embraced Jesus. Suddenly the baby in Elizabeth's womb was literally leaping and in turn Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She raced out to see Mary and out of her mouth gushed streams of living water refreshing the weather beaten and bruised Mary. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord" (Luke 1:39-45). Elizabeth prophesies over Mary, bringing something hidden to light. By the Spirit of God Elizabeth proclaims the truth over Mary and reaffirms Gabriel's message. Elizabeth receives the secret of the Lord and is honoured to speak it out.

God longs to share His heart with His people. He wants to let us know what He is doing and entrust us with His secrets. Many of us long to know God's heart. We want to bring to light the hidden things of God. We want to proclaim divinely imparted messages and foretell what is to come. We desire to teach, admonish, comfort, and give authoritative direction. We want to prophesy. So how do we tap into the heart of God? How do we walk like Elizabeth, Elijah, Elisha, Simeon, Paul, and the others?

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The answer is simple- relationship! I don't know about you but I don't share the deep things of my heart with just anyone. I pour out my heart to people who have loved me and cared for me. Those who have poured themselves into my life and who have stood by me in good times and in the bad. I tell my secrets to the people who truly love me. The Lord says that whoever, "has my commands and obeys them is the one who loves Me" (John 14:21). Our obedience to Daddy is not only a sign of our love for Him but also of our fear of Him.

If we want to hear from the Lord we need to embrace Him like Elizabeth did. To hear His heartbeat we need to be still and know that He is God. It means resting in and abiding in Him. It means ceasing to strive and learning to follow. Hearing from the Lord is no microwave meal. It requires an ongoing love relationship. If we walk with Him like Enoch did we will never be far from hearing His heartbeat. In fact we may be like Elizabeth- just going about our daily business when suddenly all heaven breaks loose in the house, even when you're doing mundane things like vacuuming. When Elizabeth embraced Jesus the Spirit downloaded the secrets of God into her. She didn't have a moment to think before she was carried away into His purposes and plans.

When we embrace Him, when we abide in Him, He gives us His words at any time. He who has ears to hear will hear what the Spirit is saying and will be able to pass the word along.



1. What does it mean to abide in Christ?
2. Is it limited to the amount of "quiet time" you spend with Jesus each day?
3. If not, in what ways is Jesus showing you the abundant possibilities of abiding?
4. What seemingly insignificant responsibilities has the Lord given you lately that you have disobeyed?
5. Elizabeth received a notable manifestation of the Spirit due to the leaping baby. What danger is there if you only speak when the Holy Spirit visibly manifests Himself in or through you?

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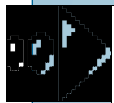
Prophetic Three



"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "Now, I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant" (Jeremiah 1:5-10).



"We need not only our ideals. We need also self-criticism and some prophetic admonition. The key to all success for us as an evangelistic movement is, undeniably, the power of the Holy Spirit"
(Arnold Brown, in Henry Gariepy, MOBILIZED FOR GOD, p34).



Not too long ago I was spending some time with the Lord when He impressed upon me some scripture and exhortation to share with a leader in The Salvation Army. It was a word of instruction to address some things that were happening within the ranks. Immediately upon receiving it I began second-guessing what I had heard. Was this from the Lord? How could I give this information to this senior officer? If I emailed him he would think I was some sort of weirdo or zealot. It seemed a lot easier to just be quiet and do nothing. If I stepped out and did it, it would cost me something. I would no longer be anonymous and quiet. I would be taking a stand for the Most High and the person on the other end would have a choice to accept or reject what I was delivering. It was a place of vulnerability that I did not feel comfortable walking into. But I did it. There is one thing that I have come to terms with in my walk with God- I want to obey Him no matter what the cost. Whether I look foolish, radical, wrong- whatever- I want to be an obedient child.

One of the biggest blocks to the prophetic breaking forth is **FEAR!** Not just any fear - the fear of man! Jeremiah was one of the greatest prophets to Judah but when God commissioned him Jeremiah was not too thrilled with the prospects. Basically God said to Jeremiah, "Before you were even a tiny microscopic entity in your mom's womb I knew you and planned for you to be My prophet to the nations. I have sanctified you and ordained you for this very purpose. I have plans for you!" Jeremiah's response to this great affirming word from the Lord is, "Lord, I think you have the wrong person. Look at me; I can't even speak. I'm only a young guy. No one is going to listen to me." "Who am I to speak?" "Who am I to say anything?" Often when the Lord puts something into our spirit that He wants us to share the greatest block is fear. We become gripped with the fear of whether people will listen to the word. Fear of how the people will respond. God sees to the heart of Jeremiah's response and hits the nail on the head. "Do not say, 'I am only a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you." Don't be afraid of the people- just speak what I tell you. It sounds so easy, so uncomplicated: hear the word - speak the word - hear the word - speak the word. It really is uncomplicated when we fix our eyes on Jesus. It starts to get complicated when we start looking around at the faces of the people. We look at their faces and we wonder what they're thinking. We begin imagining all the things that are going on in their minds and the next thing you know, we're consumed with **FEAR.**

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Prophetic Three



It's just like when you feel that fluttery sensation in your stomach when you know God has called you to do something. Your heart starts beating faster and everything feels so intense. But for some reason instead of doing what you believe you're supposed to do you are glued to your seat or your feet are like cement and you're unable to move. An overwhelming fear paralyzes you. Ever been there?

Well, in order to step out into the prophetic we've got to drive the fear out. We need to lift our focus and vision above what is seen to what is unseen. We need to move from living by the flesh to walking in the Spirit. God will put His words in our mouth just as He did Jeremiah. And He speaks these words to us now: "prepare yourself and arise, and speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, lest I dismay you before them" (Jeremiah 1:17). Step on out!

The word of the Lord says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). So fear is not something from God and it is definitely not what He wants us to walk in. He also tells us that, "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). There's that relationship word 'love' again. Somehow God's love working in us drives out the spirit of fear so that it does not operate or control us. If I know the love of God in my experience- not just my head- and if I am head over heels in love with Him, all that loving squeezes out the fear so there's no room for it. When God puts something on our heart to do or say then we will step out because we love Him. His love for us combined with our love for Him compels us to move out in obedience. The more we are in love with Him and know His love the less we will allow fear to rule in our hearts.

Let the love of God reign in you. You'll be amazed at the exploits you'll do with Him!



1. What keeps you from being obedient to the things that God calls you to?
2. How can you overcome the fear of people?
3. How have you seen your obedience to God increase and your fear decrease?



Spend some time in prayer for a friend and ask God to really speak to you for them. Now step out and share the word (gently and with humility).

Get over the fear by taking action in the prophetic this week!

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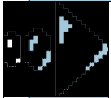
Prophetic Four



Jeremiah 13:1-11
Ezekiel 4 & 5 Hosea 1



"We should wait to be filled with power from on high. We should take time to hear what the Lord will say; then speak so much as He gives us to speak, and no more. Then again seek His face, and be quiet and attentive before Him till He refills us.... Those who have blessed men the most, and blessed the most men, have taken time to listen to God's voice, and to be taught of Him"
(Samuel Logan Brengle, HELPS TO HOLINESS p11).



Have you ever read the Bible? I mean really read the Bible. The more I read about God the more I realize that He gets people to do some unusual things. In fact, they're not just unusual; they are just plain odd! Yet somehow these peculiar things- these strange signs- release a power in the realm of the Spirit that we can only witness through the eyes of faith. Without the eyes of faith, what God does and asks His prophetic people to do are acts of lunacy. Stop and think about it... Much of what we read in the Bible we read through the eyes of hindsight. We read the sanitized Sunday School stories of old and think of them as normal. **BUT THERE IS NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT THEM. THERE IS NOTHING NORMAL ABOUT WHAT GOD ASKS HIS PEOPLE TO DO.**

Many things that God asks His people to do make them look ridiculous:

- A boy goes out to fight a giant who is wearing full battle attire armed with 5 stones and a sling. (1 Samuel 17);
- Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir rise up to invade Israel and God's battle plan to rout the enemy is to send the musicians of Judah out in front- some to sing to the Lord and others to, "praise the beauty of holiness" (2 Chronicles 20:21). Great battle plan! Does this make sense? How would you like to be one of those worshippers out IN FRONT of the militia?

Look here at what He has some of His prophets do:

- Hosea is commanded by the Lord to marry a woman of harlotry (Hosea 1:2). He doesn't call His prophet to marry a pure and righteous woman like the virtuous wife of Proverbs 31. Instead He tells His man to marry a prostitute. YIKES!
- Ezekiel is called by God to make a mini model of the city of Jerusalem and then play war games- building siege ramps- placing battering rams against it. After enacting a battle against Jerusalem he is to place an iron plate like a wall between him and the model of the city. He is to lie facing the plate on one side for 390 days and then on the other side for 40 days (See Ezekiel 4, 5 for full details).

I want you to look at the actions of these people. Look at what they are doing. Think about it. Your Corps Officer marries a well-known prostitute and explains, 'God told me too!' You're walking along the main street in your town and you see a guy lying on the ground with his face against an iron plate and a model of a city that's under attack. **THIS IS NOT NORMAL! THIS IS STRANGE BEHAVIOUR!** And don't go and say, "Those were Bible days. People did those things then." That's a lie. Marrying a prostitute was more offensive then than it is now. Lying still on your side for 390 days is never physically normal unless you're in a coma!

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Prophetic Four



Jeremiah is told by the Lord to go out and get a nice linen belt. He goes out and gets the latest thing in linen belts. He ties it on and rejoices that he's got a new belt! Then God tells him to go to the Euphrates and "hide it in a hole in the rock." He just got a new belt and now he has to take a trip to get rid of it. So he does as he's commanded. He takes a trip, ditches the belt and returns home. He has no idea why he is doing such a thing but he responds obediently. After quite a while the Lord speaks again and tells Jeremiah to "go get the belt." So Jeremiah packs up some food, hits the road and looks for the belt. He finds the belt and finds that it's trashed. Absolutely useless! Once again God has His prophet do some strange things. Jeremiah has no idea what he has been doing. He has no idea what God is doing. He is merely being obedient to the word of the Lord and walking by FAITH. Jeremiah has made a prophetic act in the spiritual realm. What has happened to the belt is what God is going to do to the people of Judah. The actions are a powerful release of the purposes of God. **To prophesy is not only to proclaim or use your mouth. Prophecy is also declared by overt actions that are led by the Spirit of God.** These actions, that God leads us to walk in, are used as signs to the people to whom He is giving a message. They can be used by God to route the enemy and tear down demonic strongholds. They also release God's plans and purposes on earth that have been established in heaven. **There is a verse in Isaiah that has literally transformed my Christian walk.** The Lord states quite clearly that, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8). To walk in the prophetic is to ditch walking according to your own understanding. When my husband and I came into one of our appointments God spoke to us that the Corps had a bitter root that was poisoning them. He wanted to pull that bitter root out so that His purposes could be released in the saints. After speaking to us about the bitter root, He had me go out to our garden and cut off all the rhubarb- a bitter root. My husband and I were then instructed to eat nothing but rhubarb until it was all gone. And we're good gardeners! There was a lot of rhubarb there! How many ways can you prepare rhubarb? There's rhubarb cakes, rhubarb shakes, rhubarb flan, rhubarb muffins... but after while...). The inconvenient physical effects of the rhubarb on our bodies over those days was reflective of what bitterness does in the life of the believer and it proved strongly why God wanted it removed. Merely cutting off the branches of the rhubarb did not remove the bitter root. Over the next few weeks the rhubarb grew back and even more heartily than before. He spoke to us that in order to remove a stronghold like bitterness the whole root system must be removed- every tentacle. As God raises you up as a prophetic people he WILL ask you to do things that DO NOT make sense to you. This is a certainty! The word of God tells you that. He tells you, "do not lean on your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge Me and I will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5,6). His ways are not our ways. Read His word and you will quickly come to recognize God does things His way! His ways are different! If you are serious about the prophetic be prepared to do some **DIFFERENT** things as the Spirit leads you.



1. How do you know when someone is actually walking in the prophetic versus someone walking in the flesh? 2. How would you respond to someone who is biblically off base, yet emphatically argues they are not? 3. If your answer to question 2 is that you don't know the scriptures well enough, what are you going to do about that? 4. What keeps you from walking in the prophetic in spite of it sounding or looking strange, bizarre or peculiar?

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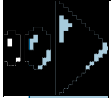
Prophetic Five



Ephesians 3:1-12; and... "The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting" (Isaiah 50:4-6). "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11).



Soldiers of our God, arise! The day is drawing nearer; Shake the slumber from your eyes, The light is growing clearer. Sit no longer idly by, While the heedless millions die, Lift the blood-stained banner high, And take the field for Jesus. STORM THE FORTS OF DARKNESS BRING THEM DOWN, BRING THEM DOWN! STORM THE FORTS OF DARKNESS BRING THEM DOWN, BRING THEM DOWN! PULL DOWN THE DEVIL'S KINGDOM WHERE'ER HE HOLDS DOMINION; STORM THE FORTS OF DARKNESS, BRING THEM DOWN! Glory, honor to the Lamb, Praise and power to the Lamb, Glory, honor, praise and power, Be forever to the Lamb! See the brazen hosts of Hell, Their art and power employing, More than human tongue can tell, The blood-bought souls destroying. Hark! From ruin's ghastly road Victims groan beneath their load; Forward, O ye sons of God, And dare or die for Jesus. Warriors of the risen King, Great Army of salvation, Spread His fame, His praises sing And conquer every nation. Raise the glorious standard higher, Work for victory, never tire; Forward march with blood and fire, And win the world for Jesus (SASB 696).



Don't just read this song. Hear it! Hear the passion! Hear the heart cry! Let the zeal and fire of God shake and burn in your spirit. Pause right now and read it again. Ask the Spirit of the living God to come upon you now and stir within you the same spirit that inspired this song.

We, as the soldiers of God, must become aware of the battle plans and strategies of the King of Kings if we are to effectively wage war and defeat the enemy. We have been called as God's agents to bring and establish God's rule here on earth as it is in heaven. We are a prophetic people- each and everyone who names the name of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. We have been given the awesome task of proclaiming the word of God to every creature on this earth. God's word is, "living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). His word is a powerful weapon. When we prophesy we wield a weapon of warfare that is, "mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

When we speak forth His word **under the anointing** of His Spirit we are declaring the mystery of the manifold wisdom of God to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:10). As we proclaim God's word into the heavenlies it is loosed on earth to go and accomplish the purpose for which He has sent it. Angels are released to wage war against the demonic principalities. They are freed up to deliver messages to God's people just like Gabriel was released to bring a message from the LORD to Daniel (Daniel 9).

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Prophetic Five



Jesus spoke to His disciples and promised, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). He has given us authority to release the purposes and plans of the Father here and now!

Just looking at the ministry of Ezekiel we can see how God used him to prophesy and storm the forts of darkness. Ezekiel prophesied in many different ways all releasing the WORD of the Lord.

Ezekiel 4:1-17 Lying on his side as a form of prophesy releasing judgment

Ezekiel 6:1+ Prophesying to mountains

Ezekiel 7:1+ Prophesying to the land - physical land

Ezekiel 21:1+ Prophesying toward Jerusalem

Ezekiel 29 Set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy.

Often times the prophets were merely speaking into the wind. Crying out to the principalities and powers- both good and evil- declaring the word of the Lord through actions or words in order that heaven would be released on earth. The Lord declares this, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." His word will go forth through his servants and will accomplish His purposes. Most of the time we will not see the direct results of releasing His word but on occasion we will witness what His word has accomplished. The other week a group of intercessors met in our city for prayer. We waited upon the Lord seeking to pray what was on His heart. Suddenly the Spirit of God fell upon us and we began calling out in the heavenlies that the ministry described in Ephesians 4:11-16 would come forth and be established in His Church. We cried out for the Apostles to come forth. We cried for the Prophets to come forth. We cried for the Evangelists to come forth. We called for the Pastors and Teachers to come forth. We repented on behalf of the pastors for trying to fulfill all the roles, trying to be evangelists, teachers, prophets, apostles and not seeking to work alongside those whom God had raised up. It was a powerful time of prayer where the heart of the Father was being released so that the Body of Christ will arise into the fullness of Christ. Within several weeks God brought forward a number of the city's Evangelists, Prophets, and Apostles. The Spirit witnessed with our spirits that what we saw in faith was indeed true. The unity that the Spirit brought to the body and the leadership therein was strong. It was amazing. Cry out to God. Shake off the slumber and awake to his purposes. Give Him no rest until His purposes are established here on earth as they are in heaven! The day is drawing nearer and it is time to **STORM THE FORTS OF DARKNESS!**



1. Do you believe that God is raising up the apostolic and prophetic in these days? Why, or why not? Give biblical proof of your answer.
2. If not, how do you reconcile within your heart your acceptance of the latter three offices described Ephesians 4:11 and not the first two?
3. How do you know when you are **under the anointing** of the Holy Spirit to prophesy?
4. As the prophetic is being released, the proud and arrogant in the body of Christ will want to be noticed for "their word or prophetic action" (as if they initiated it!).
5. How do you discern that what the Lord wants you to declare is for that occasion?
6. Be honest. Do you wait until He physically manifests Himself within you before you obey or do you simply respond to the quiet voice of the Lord?

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Prophetic Six

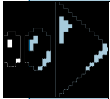


1 Kings 17-19; Mark 6:14-28... So Herodias nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But she was not able to because Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod heard John, he was greatly puzzled; yet he liked to listen to him" (Mark 6:19,20).

"We should also covet the spirit of prophecy; that is, the ability to speak to the hearts and minds of men so that they shall see and feel that God is in us and in our words" (1 Corinthians 14:1-3.)



"We may not be able to preach like the General, but there is probably not one of us but might preach and prophesy far more pungently, powerfully and persuasively than we do if we earnestly coveted this gift and sought it in fervent prayer, faithful study, and constant and deep meditation. God would help us; and how greatly it would add to our power and usefulness! Let us earnestly covet this gift, asking God to touch our lips with fire and grace. The people wondered at the gracious words of Jesus; and why should we not be such mouthpieces for Him that they shall wonder at our gracious words too!" (Samuel Logan Brengle. LOVE SLAVES. p88).



Believe it or not, not everyone likes the prophetic. It seems almost incomprehensible that some people would not like the Body of Jesus Christ to be built up, "to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (Ephesians 4:13-14). Some people just don't want us to GROW UP!

There is a spiritual reality at work when the prophetic is released. It is called the edification or building up of the Body. As people prophesy the word of God they are literally enriching the Body of Christ. They make it stronger.

Those who would oppose the prophets of God are seeking to destroy God's plans and purposes. We must always remember that, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). The enemy uses people to work against what God is doing. Even the people of God can be used by the enemy to tear down and demolish what God is seeking to establish and build up. Remember when Jesus was declaring that He must go to Jerusalem to suffer and die. One of His closest followers rebuked Him for his words saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (Matthew 16:22). Jesus, recognizing the root from which the words sprang, turned to Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Matthew 16:23). The Lord saw the enemy using Peter to oppose the work that the Father had called Him to do. Jesus had in His mind the things of God. Peter had in mind the things of the flesh. The two are like oil and water- they never mix!

Be assured that as the prophetic goes forth the enemy of our souls will rise up in many places seeking to diffuse and stifle it.

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Elijah lived in a time when it was life-threatening to be a prophet of the Most High. A queen named Jezebel hated the prophetic and she did everything within her power to rid Israel of the prophets of God. During this severe time of persecution against the prophets, Elijah was assigned by God to head to head combat with the principalities and powers who presented themselves as the Baals. Through Elijah God destroyed the false prophets of Baal and, "made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them" (Colossians 2:15). Now this incensed Queen Jezebel and in response to Elijah's triumph on Mount Carmel she issued him notice: "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time" (1Kings 19:2). These words so penetrated the heart of Elijah that he became strangled with **FEAR**. Elijah is fresh off the greatest spiritual triumph of his life. He had just witnessed the fire of God falling from heaven. Never mind all of the other phenomenal things that God had done with him- feeding him with ravens, raising a boy from the dead, being fed continuously with an empty jar of oil and bin of flour... This man knows the power of the Almighty and yet this woman's word sends such fear into him that he RUNS. There is more at work in Jezebel than we know. There is such a strong spiritual force at work in her that it literally terrifies the man of God. Elijah runs away and despairs to the point of death. He cries out for the Lord to take his life. He also becomes so isolated that he feels he is the only prophet left in Israel. Fear, thoughts of death, isolation, depression, hopelessness... all heaped on one man by a spirit working through the woman Jezebel, the hater of the prophets. The spirit of Jezebel is the number one enemy of the prophetic. This evil spirit strikes to the heart of those walking in the prophetic, seeking to silence and kill the word of God from going forth in power.

John the Baptist had the same encounter with the spirit of Jezebel in the form of Herodias. Herodias hated John so much that she saw to it that his head was on a platter. She silenced the prophet of God and made a spectacle of her triumph. The enemy realizes the power of the prophetic going forth. From the very beginning of time he has been prepared to strike decisive blows against the prophetic because he knows that one of the main roles of the prophetic is to release the purposes of God into the heavenlies and to build up the Body into the fullness of Jesus Christ. The prophetic is a serious danger to the enemy so he has devised many schemes to block it and deter God's people from entering into this area. We, as the people of God, must stand on guard and be wise to the schemes of the enemy. It is time to learn the strategies of the King to protect ourselves from the onslaught of the enemy and overcome him as we walk in the prophetic. It is a spiritual reality that you will encounter strong demonic opposition as you boldly proclaim the word of the Lord. So stand firm and, "take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13).



1. How can you discern the spirit of Jezebel in your circle? If the appropriate reaction is to respond in the opposite spirit, how will that look in your situation?
2. How can we protect, nurture, and cultivate the prophetic in our Corps?
3. Why is the prophetic such a strategic target of the enemy?
4. Why haven't we heard these lessons in the Army since our primitive days?
5. What will you do today to put legs on the command to eagerly desire the prophetic?

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Prophetic Seven

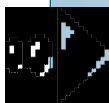


Acts 21:10-15; Deut 18:20-22; and... "One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world (This happened during the reign of Claudius)" (Acts 11:28). "If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them, "you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him" (Deuteronomy 13:1-4).



"Wait on God till He strengthens your heart. Do not get impatient. Do not try beforehand to find out what God will say, nor just how He will say it. He will surely teach you.... How much worse is he who attempts to do God's work, without God's direction...." (Samuel Logan Brengle. HELPS TO HOLINESS. p48).

"If you want to keep the blessing, that is one of the things you must constantly do -- lift your heart to God and look to Him for light, not only in the crises and great events of life, but in all its little and seemingly trifling details. By practice, you can get into such a habit of doing this that it will become as natural for you as breathing, and it will prove quite as important to your spiritual life as breathing is to your natural life. Keep within whispering distance of God always, if you would keep the blessing."
(Samuel Logan Brengle. HELPS TO HOLINESS. p119).



A while ago my husband and I went to a gathering where there were many leaders from across our nation representing a number of different denominations. This assembly was seeking the heart of the Lord for our nation with the mind to intercede on behalf of our country. As our time together progressed I was amazed at the words of prophecy that were coming forward and the quality of 'peace, peace' that was being spoken. At various times we were asked to take time to listen to the heart of the Lord and invariably a few people would get up and begin spouting, 'Thus saith the Lord...' and then saying something that, in effect, tickled the ears of the believers. I sat quietly wondering what was going on. Was this the heart of the Lord? Was He speaking these things? As I was quiet and sought my Daddy's heart I began to feel in my spirit the heart of the Father. It was a real deep ache that soon erupted into a fountain of tears and intercession. God's people were not listening to His heart. They were being carried away by their own imaginings. Some of the words that came forth were of the Lord but much of it was being added to. It grieves the heart of the Father when we spout off words in His name that He is not initiating.

God used the experience of this gathering to teach me a lot about prophecy and its dangers. Up to that point in time my experience with a group of prophets gathered together in one place had been limited. Through this I saw the spirit of competition and pride raise itself up in the believers. It was a grievous experience for me but the Lord used it for His purposes.

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I realize that we in The Salvation Army are very new (new again, at this point in our history) to walking in the prophetic gifting as the Spirit of God is releasing it in these days. But as we venture into this territory we need to go in fear and reverence of the Lord God Almighty. Our hearts need to be pure in our desire to convey and walk only in what He places before us. If we are not hearing a word from the Lord, then it is time to remain silent and wait on Him. If we do hear a word from Him then **we must walk in total obedience** to what He is calling us to do. In the book of Acts there is a recognized prophet named Agabus, "who took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit: So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles'" (Acts 21:11) (Notice how Agabus does a prophetic act as well as a prophetic word). Later on in the account of Paul going to Jerusalem we find the Jews in an uproar because they believe he has taken some Greeks/Gentiles into the temple and defiled the holy place. The news of the beating reaches the Roman officials who, like any fine Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment, send out the guards. "Then the commander came near and took him (Paul), and commanded him to be bound with two chains" (Acts 21:33). **Now according to Agabus** it was the Jews who were going to bind Paul up. But according to Luke's account it was the Gentiles who bound him up. Now for most letter-of-the-law sort of people this would cause them a bit of a problem. According to Deuteronomy 18:22, "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." What Agabus spoke did come to pass it just was not totally bang on in the detail. Agabus was still a true prophet. In seeing the case of Agabus there is room for error. We need not shoot our prophets when they are not 100% accurate. Thank the Lord for grace. But do note that if a prophet prophesies and the thing does not come about then there is no need to fear the prophet. The office of the prophet is due honor for they are speaking the word of the Lord. **Deuteronomy holds out to us other safeguards** as we move into the territory of the prophetic. Deuteronomy 13:2 offers the criterion that a prophet who summons the people to idolatry is false. The word they proclaim may be true but if they lead you to worship other gods you know they are not of the Lord. Deuteronomy 18:20 commands that a prophet is false if he speaks in the name of other gods. It is in these two cases that the prophet shall die. When prophets lead God's people down the path of idolatry and the worship of other gods there is no tolerance by the Almighty. The Lord desires that we move into the prophetic in increasing measure. It is one of the roads that leads to a mature Church and it is necessary for the body of Jesus Christ. There are snipers along the road that would like to lead us off track but by the Holy Spirit we are able to test all prophesy. Paul exhorts us, "Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21). **God is good and if our hearts are pure He will lead us and keep us on a sure path.**

Group Activity:

Have a prophetic prayer meeting. Sit one person in the middle and ask God to speak to the rest of you about this person. Pray into what you get (pictures, impressions, sensations, words...). Take turns. If you get something directive (e.g. become an officer!) then wait for a private opportunity to share with the person! Speak edifying words.