

le © Stephen & Angela Boler
- *No reproduction without permission*

A bald eagle is shown in flight, wings spread wide, against a background of a sunset or sunrise over a forested landscape. The eagle's head is white, and its body is dark brown. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The text "Going Higher Together" is overlaid in a bold, yellow font.

Going Higher Together

*Building a Healthy
Prophetic Culture*

Programme for the Day

Session 1 – Building Together – Mission World

*Session 2 – Going Higher – ‘The Door is in the Floor’ /
An Overview of Personal Prophecy*

Session 3 – Prophecy in the New Covenant

Session 4 – From Revelation to Edification

Building Together – Mission Denmark (& beyond)

Session 1

The Shekinah Glory is now on us

- 1 Sam 4:21 – Ark captured, Moses' tent '*Ichabod*' – the glory is lost
- Samuel raised up as a prophet – the prophetic movement born
 - God's voice before came from over the Ark from the Shekinah glory
 - Now, through the prophets, many hear God's voice.
 - In spite of judgment, God makes Himself more accessible – wonderful grace!
 - **The Shekinah glory rests on and remains with the prophets**
- Joel 2:28 & Acts 2:17-28 – Spirit poured out with tongues of fire
 - All in Christ now 'prophets' & 'sons of the prophets' (Acts 3:25)
 - Moses' prayer is fulfilled "*Let all God's people be prophets*" Numbers 11:29
- **The Shekinah is now on the Church,**
 - **We bring His Voice! We bring His glory.**
 - He speaks to and through all of us!

Restoring the 'Garden State'



- This is the Apostolic and Prophetic task, the job of the Church
 - Restoring the image of God in people through Christ
 - Clothing of glory and righteousness
 - Eternal life in the fullness of His presence and joyous love
 - Bringing the liberating rule of Christ's Kingdom over all the earth
- This is why the Spirit was poured out on us
 - His image is restored in us through the New Birth
 - We are empowered to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth
 - Bringing life, peace, fullness of blessing in place of rebellion & disorder
- **It is mission Denmark, mission Earth!**

The Mission Team – Gifts and Ministries

1Cor 12:27-8 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various tongues.

- Lists of gifts and ministries in New Testament

- Rom 12:3-8 – gifts we have, in us, motivations
- 1 Cor 12:7-11 – gifts of the Spirit – power / grace gifts
- Eph 4:10-16 – five-fold ministries – graced people are the gifts
- 1 Cor 12:28 – draws from all these lists & adds some more

- Understanding context:

- Rom 12 – Building the local church - Serving
- 1 Cor 12 – Ministry and evangelism, plus building the Church – Grace & power break-in
- Eph 4 – Overseeing ministries for building and health of the Church – Fullness of Christ
- 1 Cor 12:28 – Kingdom break-in in new regions / cultures – Mission!

- **We are building the Kingdom together by His power!**

- Pervading all of society with the goodness of the Kingdom

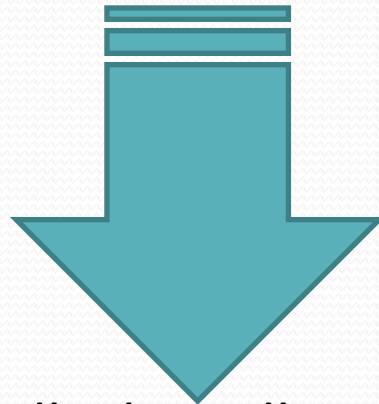
The Mission Team (Continued)- 1 Cor 12:28

- *Apostle* – Leads the apostolic ‘ship’, responsible to establish the Kingdom culture
- *Prophet* – focus the Presence, glory & fire – heart-connection with God, worship and intercession, all hearing His Voice, righteousness in heart and walk; works closely with the apostolic vision, stirs up to build.
- *Teacher* – grounding in and amplifying Scriptural truth, training in righteousness
- *Workers of Miracles* – Demonstrates Kingdom power, God’s reality – often the evangelist
- *Gifts of Healings* – those who bring God’s healing power, spirit, soul and body – for evangelism and healing the people
- *Helps* – Gk ‘*antilempsis*’ – ‘a laying hold of’ – those who take the work to heart and serve faithfully in anyway possible according to their gifts and abilities
- *Administrations* – Gk ‘*kubernesis*’, pilot, steer, government - more than just organisational support – has a leadership function – not in overall spiritual leadership but brings a level of leadership – possibly aligned with elders and deacons.
- *Diversity of tongues* – vital for the mission and building of the Church. There are those who use it much. closely connected to the prophetic, worship, prayer ; brings heaven in.

A perspective on the role of Prophecy in the Church's Mission

from Ed Silvano

- Acts 2:17a – *I will out my Spirit on all flesh*



Visions

Dreams

Prophecies

- Acts 2:21 – *And all who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*
- ie The Spirit of revelation operating in God's people will awaken the lost to their need of Christ = prophetic evangelism

Cultivating the Spirit of Revelation

- Recognise strategic importance of the prophetic in the Church & give appropriate place
 - All lists of gifts/ministries include prophecy/prophets (cf 1 Cor 14:1)
- Build around the truths of the restoration of David's Tent
 - *"That the nations may find the Lord"* (Acts 15:16-17);
 - *"You have come to Zion"* (Heb 12:22-24)
 - The foundation of Righteousness in Christ
 - The flow of Presence-filled continuing prophetic worship and intercession – the 'Three Streams' – is integral to the Kingdom increase
 - Brings the Spirit of Revelation, empowers the proclamation of the gospel, Brings understanding of Christ's Kingdom strategy
- Sow into the prophetic anointing
 - E.g. Anointed visiting ministries; building prophetic teams; encouraging the Body to grow
- Handle the operation of the prophetic wisely, But 'make war' with the prophetic promise & prophetic anointing to press forward the Kingdom!
 - *Christ's strong sceptre will be stretched forth from Zion; He will rule over His enemies (Ps 110)*

Going Higher –

‘Open Door in 24’ –

‘The Door is in the Floor’

Session 2a

Growing in the Prophetic

1Ti 3:1ff – It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach

- ‘Trustworthy statement’ – A true divine truth,
- Gives the possibility of any person entering the five-fold prophetic office. But there are character criteria, plus being ‘*able to teach*’:
 - ie Has the required giftedness, experience, understanding, anointing and relationship with Christ to teach and establish others in the prophetic
- Doorway into the prophetic – born again, Spirit-filled and hunger (1 Cor 14:1).
 - Need consistency, faithfulness, training, maturity, refining and experience to reach the prophetic office (or any five-fold office)
 - Not a quick journey
 - Soldiers versus Generals, First-aiders versus Brain Surgeons
 - Calling versus commissioning – evidence of fruit, recognition by wider Body.
 - There is a spectrum of giftedness, anointing, experience, maturity – keep growing

Healthy People

- The starting point for a healthy prophetic culture is healthy people
 - Healthy people can make use of guidelines for good practical order
 - Unhealthy people will need rules and regulations
 - *“The best control is self-control”* (Graham Cooke)
- The prophetic is supernatural, moves in the power of God
 - It has a ‘wow’ factor, by design – it testifies to the reality of the living Jesus
 - Many want to move in the ‘wow’ factor – OK, but dangerous on its own.
 - Prophecy is a holy gift, and designed to do a Kingdom-building job
 - Therefore, embrace a heart to build
- Our prophesying must be from a healed heart

The Way up is Down

- 3 John 1:9 *but Diotrephes, who loves to be first*
- ‘Robert Morison, a missionary to China is recorded as saying *“The great fault, I think, in our missions is that no one likes to be second”*.’ (From ICLC OMTC Notes)
- Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians and elsewhere how much he suffered for Christ, & that apostles were ‘least of all’ (prophets walk with apostles!)
- Phil 2:1-10 – Paul enjoins us to display the same humility as Jesus in leaving God’s throne and humbling himself to death
- *“Many people think that revival is the top blowing off. No, revival isn’t the top blowing off. It’s the bottom falling out. When the bottom falls out, we have no other place to look – but upward to God!”* (Roy Hessian)
 - Revival is accessing the grace of God through the cross in our brokenness
 - *Isa 57:15 I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

From Insecurities to Authority

- We generally don't realise, apart from the transformation which comes from Jesus, how broken, messed-up and corrupted we are
 - Rom 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
- Insecurity is endemic in the Church (and society)
 - Closely related to pride, & a source of jealousy, envy & the demonic / 'Jezebel'
 - Prophetic people seem to be particularly prone to insecurities & 'performance'
 - Deep anger generally found with insecurities – has no place in a prophetic person
- Keys to transformation:
 - Deeply forgiving all
 - Learning to rest in the love of God
 - Embracing the gift of righteousness through grace
 - Choosing to walk with a servant heart, a heart that blesses even our enemies!
- Jesus' promise to the overcomer – authority over the nations (Rev 2:26-27)

Servant Prophetic Ministry

- The prophetic office is governmental in the church, but spiritually so. It may or may not have a positional authority, or governmental in the local church situation, ie eldership or head elder.
 - Thus a person can have a strong prophetic anointing, but is not in governmental leadership in the local church.
 - The prophetic person/prophet is a servant to the church.
- A mistake prophetic people make is assuming the prophetic message brings a personal authority in the situation (often to bring judgment).
 - Church leadership have the responsibility for taking action on a word brought
- If a right attitude to God-appointed leadership is not taken, then a false Absalom/jezebel spirit can enter.
 - Absalom – stealing hearts, usurping God -appointed authority. Rebellion through contempt.
 - Jezebel – rooted in selfishness, rejection and envy. Manipulates from behind – uses false prophetic to get own way. Takes advantage of weak leadership. Promotes moral laxity.

Example of Gad & Nathan

- Gad – went with David in the wilderness, and much later, brought the word of judgment when David numbered the people
 - Had served David for over 30 years, proved trustworthy, => word was received
 - Word had matured – spoke a judgment, but actually positioned David for grace
- Nathan – initially ‘got it wrong’ but matured (2 Sam 6)
 - Brought a powerful word about David’s dynasty & Christ to come
 - Skilfully brought David to conviction, repentance and grace over Bathsheba
 - Discerned Adonijah’s rebellion, strengthened Solomon according to the promise
- Nathan & Gad
 - With David established prophetically continuing worship (2 Chr 29:25)
 - Wrote prophetic journals of the lives of David & Solomon, now in Scripture
 - Probably head prophetic ministries in David’s court
 - ie David had a prophetic administration

Lessons from Gad and Nathan

- Prophetic ministry is vital to the progression of God's redemptive strategy
 - They reveal the New Covenant, and point the King of the covenant
- Prophetic ministry should prove itself faithful and gain the trust of leadership
 - Can then speak with authority and work through issues to bring grace
- The purpose of the prophetic in the NT is to establish the people in grace
 - Working with the heart and Christ's promise to that end
- Prophetic people need to understand leadership principles and issues, have a sound theology and understand the purposes of God.
- Facilitate the mighty in-breaking of God's glory through the flow of prophetic declaration, worship and intercession & moving in the anointing of God.
- Work to ensure the prophetically-revealed Kingdom strategy is realised.

Building with Personal Prophecy

Session 2b

Personal Prophecy - Definition

A word through a prophetic person by the anointing of the Spirit from the Lord bringing edification, exhortation and comfort, wisdom, hope, promise and the power of grace.

Typically through a 2-10 minute ministry but can be a simple sentence.

Some Scriptural Examples

- Jesus to disciples on various occasions
- Instances in the Old Testament, eg to Saul, David, other kings, eg Nathan and Gad to David, Elijah to the widow etc.
- Numerous instances of God direct to people, or via angels.
- Simeon to Joseph & Mary
- Jesus to various persons as he moved around
- Jesus to Paul at appearance, Ananias to Paul.
- Paul to Timothy
- Disciples and Agabus to Paul

Benefits of Personal Prophecy

- Can be tremendously beneficial.
- Can give a framework for God's working in one's life for the next 25 years if from a mature prophetic person –
 - A 'Life word'. Destiny words.
- Some words give the big picture. Other words are fill-in words, or words that give present priorities
- Can provide 'landmarks' for our journey with God.
- Often bring wisdom for our walk and heart-alignment
- Opens up new possibilities to faith
- Often brings a heart healing
- Will bring revelation of the heart, goodness, nature and purposes of God.

Some Fundamental Principle

- In our experience, the word brings promise of grace, of how God will be working through and with us.
- The fulfilment of the word is entirely by God's moving, and none of our own efforts.
- However, we can walk with wisdom and desire, fighting the good fight with them (1 Tim 1:18)
- Note often longer timescales that we expect – we have to grow into the word.
- All words conditional – we need to keep pressing forward with God.

Who can bring a Personal Prophecy?

- In principle, anyone. However, takes training, experience and wisdom to bring a word well. Hence prophetic training.
 - Our training covers:
 - Revelation, Interpretation, Application, Communication, Impartation
 - All these need to be done well to bring a powerful effective word.
- Thus if inexperienced, share tentatively, suggesting '*I think the Lord may be saying*', rather than a '*Thus says the Lord*' – ask a more mature prophetic person to assist.
- Best done in teams, and needs to be in an open and accountable setting

When and How Often

- We only need a few 'Life words', ie will be infrequent
- Lesser words can be more frequent.
 - Weekly, even monthly words are probably too much. A couple of times a year for more significant words generally sufficient
 - Avoid becoming 'word junkies'
- Would expect prophets to bring words to some/all the people when they minister (depending on the occasion)
- A lot more scope to release blessings on a frequent basis
 - Often it is better & safer to release a blessing in prayer with our revelation.
- Can have periodic prophesying sessions using trained and sufficiently experienced prophetic people open to those who desire it.

Handling Personal Prophetic Words

- Generally good to record, and write down
- Give thanks, and pray over word. Weigh, and let God confirm
- What is for now & what for the future; what is now-wisdom & what is promise?
 - Are there any parts I don't understand and need prayer or study for further light?
- Note will be faith tests & character refinements along the journey to fulfilment.
 - Circumstances may first go in the opposite direction - understand the word was given to highlight promise in spite of contrary circumstances. Just keep walking with God and displaying Christ-likeness in every situation. Bigger words - bigger cost! Embrace both patience and great expectancy – keep in thankfulness.
- Let a larger picture build up as more words are received over time.
- Discuss with leadership to gain understanding and wisdom.
- Keep walking by Scripture and sound Christ-like wisdom as a priority.

Developing Capability to bring Words

- Generally cultivate a spirit of revelation in all the church is doing
- Keep the prayer and worship base solid
 - Understanding that these are fundamentally prophetic activities and
 - a) will build the spirit of revelation, and b) need prophetic faith and capability to move in.
 - Specifically build around the 'Three Streams' of prophetic declaration, prophetic new song and blessing / prophetic intercessory prayer.
- Intentionally develop prophetic gifting and experience by creating contexts and training – develop the people in safe, supervised contexts before releasing on the wider body or the public
- Can develop more safe shapes for use in eg prophetic evangelism, eg Treasure Hunting approach.