

# What Is Prophetic Teaching?

By Helen Calder

*'And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.'* (1 Cor 12:28)

## A. Characteristics of Prophetic Teaching

Following are some traits and benefits of prophetic teaching. These points relate not only to spoken teaching or preaching, but also other forms of communication such as writing.

General teaching may incorporate one or more of these aspects at any given time, but prophetic teaching will consistently manifest a number of these:

### 1. Utilises the Prophetic Gift as well as the Teaching Gift

*'Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. "' (John 7:16)*

A high value of the teacher is to ensure that the instruction is clear and based upon sound Biblical doctrine. The fruit of a teaching gift is that people are actually learning and being empowered by the teaching they are receiving.

The prophetic gift is employed to make known the thoughts, purpose and intent of God.

In prophetic teaching, both aspects are evident, although the individual teacher or preacher may have one gift that is predominant than the other.

### 2. Has a sense of Immediacy

*'And take the ... sword of the Spirit, which is the word [rhema] of God' (Eph 6:17)*

In the NT, the Greek word 'rhema' primarily refers to the spoken word ('utterance'), whereas 'logos' primarily refers to the written word.

Prophetic teaching emphasises the ‘rhema’—God’s Spirit-breathed ‘Now’ word, whilst remaining true to, and undergirded by, the ‘logos’ of God’s word given in scripture.

Prophetic teaching and preaching reveals the Father’s ‘Now’ word—making known something that is His purpose and is on His heart. It answers the question, ‘What is God’s word to us now?’

### **3. Is based on Prophetic Revelation**

*‘The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.’ (1 Cor 2:10-13)*

Prophetic teaching is inspired by the Holy Spirit through the means of prophetic *revelation*. The word ‘revelation’ in the New Testament Greek, *apokalupsis*, means ‘an uncovering,’ or ‘disclosure.’ In other words, God is revealing something to the teacher by His Spirit that is not known by natural means.

This revelation can take many forms, such as a scripture or Bible story, an illustration, an idea or train of thought, or simply the God-given end goal of the teaching itself.

### **4. Empowers the Church**

*‘Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.’ (Acts 15:32)*

Prophetic teaching exhorts, encourages and edifies the church. The outcome of prophetic teaching, just as with all prophetic ministry, is that the church and its leadership is built up, strengthened and empowered. (1 Cor 14:3-4)

## **5. Is Authoritative in Nature**

*'When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.'* (Matt 7:28-29)

Prophetic teaching has a distinct ring of authority to it. This authority is not based upon the teacher's gift, knowledge or expertise, but on the basis of being entrusted with a message from God Himself.

## **6. Results in Breakthrough**

Throughout scripture, the instruction of God given through a prophet brought breakthrough for God's people. This included strategic guidance in a time of warfare (2 Chron 20:14-17), a word of action to take in crisis (Gen 41:25-46) or a specific declaration of breakthrough. (2 Kings 7:1-2)

Prophetic teaching and preaching is invaluable when a shift is needed to bring breakthrough and change.

## **7. Often contains a call to Action**

*'..Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.'* (1 Chron 12:32a)

Prophetic teaching frequently calls for a response from the hearer. This may be to align one's heart or actions with God's word, to pay attention to a timely warning or guidance, or to position for God's present or future plans.

Prophetic teaching provokes the recipient to respond to the word. As such, it consistently results in change and transformation.

## **8. May Include Both Teaching and Prophecy**

*'Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching...'* (Rom 12:6-7)

A prophetic teacher may also use the gifts of teaching and prophecy interchangeably.

For example, before, during or after the course of teaching, the prophetic teacher may also bring personal or corporate prophecy. Those who are listening receive the benefits of both gifts.

## **B. Prophetic Teaching for the Purpose of Equipping**

*‘So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 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.’ (Eph 4:11-13)*

Prophetic teaching can also be specifically focused on releasing and strengthening the gifts in the church.

Some prophetic teachers are called of God to equip believers in the area of hearing from God, prophetic ministry and to raise up and release other prophetic teachers.

This aspect of equipping means actually empowering and activating the gifts within the church body. Jesus not only taught His disciples, He trained them—showing them how the work of ministry was done as well as sending them out to do it themselves.

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### About Helen Calder



Helen Calder is on the ministry team at David McCracken Ministries.

As a prophetic teacher, Helen’s passion is for spiritual renewal that leads to evangelism. “My desire is for Christians and churches to be ignited to love Jesus, to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and to be supernaturally equipped to impact their communities and beyond.”

Helen has authored the books, 'Prophetic People in a Changing Church,' 'How to be a Supernatural Christian in Your Everyday World' along with other e-books and articles which can be found at her online blog.

Helen and her husband Malcolm have two young adult children, Steve and Amy. They make their home in Melbourne, Australia, and attend The Winepress Church.

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