

Greetings! I'm Jim Taylor, thanks for joining me & IN Favor Resources in this video series titled **PROPHECY IS FOR YOU!** About you **Understanding prophetic words**, about you **receiving them** from others, and about you **giving them** to others.

In the first post: **God speaks to us in many ways**: in fact, *he is speaking to us all the time!*

In the second: **What is prophecy?** Hearing a message from God, and passing it on to others.

In the third: How **the prophetic gift in the NT** is different from **the office of the OT prophet**:

(Most memorable: *we don't stone you to death if you get it wrong!*)

In the fourth: **What good does it do? What are the results?** *Strengthens, encourages, comforts.*

**Why should I want it?** We are to eagerly desire and seek after it; *"especially prophecy"*

In the fifth: **Can I prophesy if I don't have the gift?** Yes. **What will it feel/look/sound like if I do?**

In the last: **What do I do with** a word someone gives me? **How can I steward it, press into it?**

In today's teaching, we close out this series with:

**What if I'm not sure it is** really **God prompting me to speak?** What if it's just my imagination?

And, a very pertinent question: **What if I mess up?** What if I get it wrong?

Here are 7 suggestions for when you have doubts (which are good and healthy, by the way):

1) First, **Pray for discernment.** Ask, "Lord, is this you? Is it *your* voice I'm hearing? God will answer you because *he wants you to know his voice* so you can follow it without hesitation!

*John 10:2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. <sup>3</sup> The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." ... <sup>27</sup> My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

If you pause and pray, you will have a peace that God is speaking to you ... or not.

2) **Check your motives.** If you are truly hearing from the Lord, you should not be speaking out of a spirit of pride, or anger, or criticism, or self-interest, or legalism, or competition.

On the contrary, you will recognize this as a privilege that is not to be abused.

This is not a chance for you to hold the microphone and stand in the spotlight.

Your desire will be to obey God and to help others; you should have a servant's heart.

Ask yourself: "Would I be just as excited if someone else passed this message on?"

3) Then, **Look at the response.** I realize this doesn't do you any good *until after* you give your prophetic word, but you can *think back to your last one(s)* and perhaps begin to see a pattern. Have you heard from God before? Did it sound like this? Or not?

Your words should agreeable to others, the hearers ought to be glad to accept them, and you can be sure the results will turn out to be positive **fruit** in everyone's life.

4) This is a big one: **Don't worry too much that it may only be your imagination.**

Anyone who has ever received or given a prophetic word has sometimes wondered, "What if this one is just me? What if these are *my* thoughts, and not God's?"

This is a possibility; sometimes we *want* something to be true for someone we dearly love, and our desires loom so large that we may interpret them as God's promises.

Remember that *God speaks to your mind, in your thoughts, and it may sound "like you."*

But as Carol Opp often says in her classes on the Holy Spirit, if it is in *your* mind and in *your* thoughts, **who else would it sound like?** Of course it will sound like you!

After all, God is using *your* mind to communicate with you and with others; he is employing *your* imagination, *your* knowledge, and *your* experience. It's not an alien thought in an unfamiliar voice; it is God speaking to you, in you, through you.

- 5) If you're still unsure, **Share the word with someone you respect** before you give it publicly, especially in a worship service. Ask them to weigh it and give you their impression. (It would be acceptable to give the word privately to the recipient after the service is over, but then the rest of the church would not be edified as they could have been.)
- 6) It is never a bad idea to **Introduce your words humbly** by saying something like, "I feel like I should say something to you ..." or "I think the Lord would like you to know ..." or "It seems as if the Lord wants me to tell you ..." (Don't march in, wave your finger, and loudly declare, "Thus saith the Lord!" Remember, you are not an OT prophet.) Your **humility** will not take away from the power of the word; in fact, it will add to it by giving more of the attention to God—where it belongs.
- 7) Finally, after all this, just **Relax and go for it!** Just do it. You can hardly go wrong if what you say is *strengthening, encouraging, comforting* (1 Cor 14:3). God does not want you to worry about this or obsess over it. He will supply the message, he will lead you to the right person(s) at the right time, he will help you pass it on. **Relax**, have fun, give God the steering wheel and see where he takes you.

I'd like to spend some extra time on the anxious question, **But what if I do mess up?**

"I see the power of prophecy, and the value it brings to the searching soul & to the church; But what if I try, but am mistaken or inaccurate? What if it doesn't make any sense to the person receiving the word? This is embarrassing, and couldn't it be harmful?" I believe the more sensitive you are, the larger this question will loom. But wait ...

- Please remember, as we said before, when we give prophetic words we are expressing something God has brought to our mind. **We are all human.** We can, and do, and will make occasional mistakes; but so do apostles, evangelists, teachers, and everyone else who operates in the gifts of the Spirit—*gifts that he intends us to use for others!*  
So **even if you did blow it** this time, get up, dust yourself off, and get back into the game. Our goal isn't perfection, it's *ministry*. And if your voice is silent, someone is missing out. As with most things, the more you practice, the better you'll be. Get out there and practice!
- But I want you to consider: **did you really mess up?**  
Are you sure? You, the giver—or the recipient—may not be aware of all the circumstances: Even though it didn't seem to fit the person's current situation, it could be that your word applies to circumstances in their life that have not yet been revealed. Or, it may apply to them now, but they won't understand it until later. It could also be that you had the right word, but the interpretation was not accurate, and more time and discernment will be necessary.

Perhaps this will help. A few years ago, a woman with a strong prophetic gift gave me a word: "I see you sitting across the table from businessmen; you are talking to them, and they are listening to you, learning from you. I believe you'll have a ministry in the business mountain." On the way home, my wife asked me what I thought about the prophecy. I said, "I think she missed it on that one. I don't know anything about business, I couldn't possibly give any advice to people in business. I don't even have any interest in that. No, she was wrong."
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But when a small group of us founded our non-profit, City Changers, one of the first things we did was to join the local Chamber of Commerce. It turned out to be an outstanding opportunity to meet and network with people in the business world, and to get across our message of community transformation. Now, several years after the prophecy, my circumstances have changed; as a Chamber director, I sit across the table and talk with business owners *several times a week*. I have been the speaker at Chamber functions. I'm not talking with them about *business*, but how to make our community a better place. But *business people are listening to me, just as the prophecy said*. She hadn't missed it at all! It came true, but my circumstance had to change first, and I had to grow into the prophecy.

It may not *seem* like your prophetic word was accurate *at first*. But time may prove it true.

This is the end of the last installment in the video series **PROPHECY IS FOR YOU!**  
Just in case anyone is still asking, "Do I really want to get involved in this?" The answer is, **YES!**  
The feeling *you* will have, "*I just heard God,*" and then that "*God spoke thru me,*"  
and knowing that the recipient of your words thinks, "*God just spoke to me!*"  
**—it can change your day, your understanding, your plans, even your life!**

I can't wait to hear how God is using **YOU** to **strengthen, encourage, and comfort** his church!

I'm so glad and grateful to be working with all of you to bring Indiana into her prophetic destiny!  
You can keep up with us on our website, [infavorresources.com](http://infavorresources.com), our "IN Favor" Facebook page,  
and our IN Favor Resources channel on YouTube.

Thanks for joining me in this series; signing off until the next one, hope to see you then.



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