

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?**

Today: **Someone has given you a prophetic word**, in church, at a conference, in the mall;

What do you do now? How can you steward that message from God, passed on to you?

In my workshop, **Turning Prophecy into Destiny**, attendees receive a handout: **"12 ways to respond to a prophetic word."** Our time is limited, so I'm summarizing here.

But first: I want to stress that **when God speaks to us, he's expecting a response from us.**

We cannot be passive when we receive a word; they do not come into being on their own.

They are given to us to encourage us, increase our faith, *and spur us on to action.*

Prophecies are not automatic—**WE HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THEIR FULFILLMENT!**

And here are some suggestions on how we can do just that ...

- You should **Record it**—with your phone, and then transcribe it; or write it down immediately afterwards while its fresh in our mind (if it's long, at least get the main points down). *Be sure you know what was actually said* so you don't misunderstand it or misquote it. If you aren't keeping your prophetic words where you can get to them you should be.
- Because you'll want to **Review it**, meditate on it, read it over and over; *don't forget about it.* Joseph went a long time before he saw his brothers bowing down to him—but they did!
- Be sure to **Test it**, weigh it, evaluate it, judge it, in keeping with **1 Thessalonians 5:20-21.** As I've said, don't believe everything everyone says all the time, that would be naïve. *Anything that conflicts with or contradicts Scripture should be repudiated and discarded.* Check your spirit—does it agree with the spirit of the prophecy? Do others agree with you? Do those in authority over you—people you know and trust—witness to its validity?
- **If so, then Accept it** and receive it gratefully for what it is: God's direction for your life. It's a privilege to receive a *personal* word of encouragement from the creator of everything! Don't ignore it, forget it, be afraid of it, or try to explain it away. **Accept it** with thanksgiving.
- But **Don't limit it.** Be careful not to reject a word, or reduce its scope, because you don't understand how it could possibly come to pass. Sarah laughed at the idea she'd have a son —*but it was true*, and she did have a son. After all, **"is anything too hard for the Lord?"** If you can't fully comprehend it, put it on a shelf for a while, and come back to it later.
- **Don't get ahead of it.** By this I mean, don't do anything rash or foolish. Sometimes we move too quickly and regret it later. *What is the timing* of the prophetic word given to you? If the word is about transitions in life—marriage, moving, changing churches, and so on—don't make hasty changes until you've prayed, reflected, and sought godly counsel.

- Next, **Believe it**. Have faith that God will fulfill the prophecy. Moses was a fugitive when God called him to lead his people out of slavery. Gideon was an indecisive, argumentative coward who was hiding when God called him a “mighty warrior.” Mary was a virgin when the angel said she would conceive and bear a child by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes prophetic promises have a high “doubtability quotient.” *They can’t be seen to be believed; they have to be believed to be seen.* If God said it, we can take it to the bank. Don’t doubt, **believe it**.
- And, **Declare it**. Proclaim his promises over your life, family, church, and community. What has the Lord said to you? *Begin to say it with him.* Confess it to yourself and others. *Bring your words in alignment with God’s words.* In **Genesis 32**, Jacob feared for his life; he prayed, and then he added, *“But you have said...”* and he quoted God’s promises to him. Turn your prophecies into **declarations** and remind God of his prophetic word.
- Then **Align with it**. Respond to the prophetic word with obedience. Are there any actions you can take to speed the word to its realization? *What can you do to partner with it?* Did your prophecy say you’d go overseas? Get a passport and put away money, now. Begin looking at the car dealerships for that vehicle God said would be in your future.
- Be determined to **Fight for it**. You’ve received a prophecy? *Prepare yourself for warfare.* You will have to contend for it in prayer, faith, and obedience. Stand on what God has said. **Fight** for its fulfillment. Fight fear, doubt, and unbelief. Fight until the victory is yours!
 (Note: You fighting *for* your words, and *with* them as well—Paul reminded Timothy of “the prophecies previously made about you,” saying, *“by them you may wage the good warfare.”* The Good News Bible renders **1 Timothy 1:18** as “Use those words (of prophecy spoken in the past about you) as weapons in order to fight well.”
- **Don’t give up on it**. One of the hardest aspects of prophecy is *waiting for it to happen*. Sometimes the wait is a long one; it may require great perseverance to “hang in there.” When God promised Abraham he would have a child, *“he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised”* (**Romans 4:20-21**). Abraham waited decades for Isaac, but he stayed with it; he refused to give up on the prophecy.

Barbara Wentroble explains: “Although you may not have yet seen the fulfillment of your prophetic promise, **do not give up** ... Sometimes it takes months or maybe years of God’s timing for his prophetic promise to come to pass. Do not lose confidence or grow weary during the time of waiting.”

Barbara Yoder adds: “God gives a prophetic word to you so that you will know where you are headed—and so that you can develop the persistence you need to press through the dark night that lies between where you are now and where you will be eventually. He wants you to press in, labor hard and work to enter into the promise ... In the end, traversing the darkness will be worth it. With the fulfillment of God’s promise and with rest comes joy. You will have made it through all of the temptation, through the dark night of doubts and the potential for unbelief. The break of day will be the time to celebrate. The work of your hard night will be finished.”

- Finally, **Don’t obsess over it**. Don’t make an idol of any prophecy, or be consumed by it. Words from the Lord should bring encouragement and not discouragement; they should produce peace and not anxiety; you should feel confidence and not despair.

Don't be overwhelmed by the fear of "missing out" on something great in the prophecy, or the possibility of failing to do your part in its fulfillment. *Relax!* God is partnering with you in his wonderful plan; and he will not let you down or put you out there on your own. *Enjoy the experience from beginning to end.* One day in the future you will look back at the prophecies given to you, and you will say, ***"It was all true—every word."***

Next (last) post: seven helpful suggestions/guidelines on [giving](#) prophetic words to others. ["What if I'm not sure it's really God prompting me?"](#) And ["What if I mess up?"](#)

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, our "IN Favor" Facebook page, and our IN Favor Resources channel on YouTube.

Thanks for joining me today; signing off until next time, hope to see you then.



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