

Study #4

Prophetic Praying



Prophecy and Prayer

In this study the powerful connection between the spiritual gift of prophecy and intercessory prayer is taught from the scriptures.

The Apostle Paul said this about the gift of Prophecy:

1 Corinthians 14:1 NIV Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, **especially prophecy.**

Prophecy Defined:

Foretelling events: *God reveals details of the future through the voice of people who could not know unless they received that information from God.*

Speaking Under Inspiration: *The filling of the Holy Spirit comes upon a person and, through divine inspiration, the person speaks.*

Fulfilling the Prophetic Office: *There is a vacancy in the function and operation of the church without the prophets and the voice they give to the church and the world.*

Speaking Under Inspiration:

Look up these verses and describe how the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was responsible for the things spoken by those who spoke.

- Luke 1:67-80
- Acts 4:8-12
- Acts 13:9

The Word of God (The Bible) and Specific Words

God has delivered His Word, the Bible to us. We know it as the Divinely **INSPIRED** Word of God. It is a record of people living, speaking, and writing under inspiration.

Have you ever experienced, or know of someone who has experienced being “nudged” by God... woke in the middle of the night... inspired to reach out to someone to pray or talk, or check in on them, only to find that the need and timing for your prayers were so precise that you knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God was involved?

Isn't that speaking, praying, obeying under inspiration from the Holy Spirit? Isn't that evidence of His reality in our lives?

The Story of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 37:1-3 NIV The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. (2) He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. (3) He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Let's observe how God interacts with Ezekiel:

1. *The HAND of the Lord was upon him. What does that mean, for the HAND of God to be upon you? Describe it as best as you can.*
2. *Ezekiel was BROUGHT OUT by the SPIRIT. Think of what Ezekiel might have experienced and try to articulate what he's describing. What did he mean as he described what God was doing with him?*
3. *Ezekiel was SET in the middle of a valley. God placed Ezekiel in the middle of visionary place. Why does God use visions?*
4. *God LED Ezekiel BACK AND FORTH. Why? Why does God walk Ezekiel around in the vision? What purpose might God have for doing this?*
5. *God ASKED Ezekiel a question. What kind of question is asked of Ezekiel? Is there a good answer to the question? How would you feel if God asked you that question?*

The Questions of God:

Humble the Prophet: the depth of God's questions causes us to realize we have seriously limited wisdom. We have no answers for God's questions, so we are changed into more humble people because of the encounter. This is necessary to minimize the chance of pride rising in a prophet.

Ezekiel 37:4-6 NIV Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! (5) This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. (6) I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

The Command to Speak.

God tells Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones. Would you speak if God asked you? Would you speak in the midst of a vision? Why might you resist it?

Ezekiel 37:7-10 NIV So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. (8) I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. (9) Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" (10) So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

1. *Did Ezekiel touch the bones? Did he join them together with his hands? What caused them to rattle and come together?*
2. *Did Ezekiel perform CPR on the lifeless bodies of the people on the ground? What caused the breath to enter them and raise them to life?*

Do you see the power of the spoken prophetic word of God? We cannot and should never underestimate the power of the Words God gives us in prophecy. They literally are CAUSITIVE!

The Connection the Intercessory Prayer

When we seek what is in God’s heart and mind to do in the world and in His church today, we can expect to hear the voice of our Shepherd. When we pray prophetically we are praying under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, giving voice to the will of God, and uttering specific words given to us. We may not be touching, handling or manipulating what we are speaking to, but the causative, very real power of God does its work simply through faithful, Holy Spirit-informed, Holy-Spirit inspired speaking!

Praying Prophetically

1. **CLEANSSES GOD’S PEOPLE** – God humbles the people who are to be His prophets and molds them into powerful, humble vessels of His word.
2. **CONFESSES GOD’S WILL** – Prophets declare the specific will of God with verbal voice.
3. **DECLARES CHRIST’S KINGDOM** – The prophet is the primary voice of declaring that the Kingdom of God is at hand.
4. **CHANGES THE ATMOSPHERE** – Whenever God’s causative words are spoken, the atmosphere changes.
5. **REVEALS HIDDEN THINGS** – God delivers hidden things to those hiding them through the voice of prophets to declare His power and Authenticity in His earth.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 NIV Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.'" (12) Therefore prophesy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. (13) Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and

bring you up from them. (14) I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

God still wants to deal with dry bones in the church.

What does it mean that there are “dry bones” in the church today? List the ways you see there being dry bones in the church.

What will it take to breathe life into those bones?

Ephesians 3:10-12 NIV His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, (11) according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (12) In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

How do we make the manifold wisdom of God known to rulers and authorities in heavenly realms? How does prophetic praying accomplish this?

Prophetic Prayer – The answer when we don’t know how to pray.

We usually ask people, “how can I pray for you?” Do people really know how to articulate their deep need? Do we really need all of the information before we can pray? Can we pray by listening first, then giving voice to what we hear from the Holy Spirit?

This is the beginning and the core essence of Prophetic Prayer ... praying under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Participating in Prophetic Intercession:

1. **Stay in the Word of God.** The Bible’s inspiration continually speaks. Stay in the Word and let it feed your spiritual understanding. God will speak from its pages, adding to the inspiration you receive from the Holy Spirit. It is full of glorious revelation.
2. **Be on Assignment as a Prophetic Intercessor wherever you go.** Any location at any time, on any given day is an ideal time to pray prophetically. Listen for inspiration from God. Seek it. See what God says to you wherever you go, then give voice to it in prayer.

Pray

Write a prayer from your heart as a response to this lesson.