Chapter 2

THE PROPHETIC FLOW

We need to be alert to the fact that there is a divine flow to the prophetic ministry. A divine flow and a divine order to all things.

Divine Order

"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts [the things of the Spirit] but rather that ye may prophesy."

—I Corinthians 14:1

There is a ministry of tongues and interpretation, a ministry of the Prophet, and also a releasing of the body to contribute.

"If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret."

—I Corinthians 14:27
Tongues and interpretation are not the same thing as prophecy. I have heard Pastors say that there is to be no more than three prophecies in a service. That is erroneous. We need to understand that he was saying, "Let them speak, two or at most three, and let one interpret." So it seems as though he set some guidelines for the ministry of tongues and interpretation. Then in verses 28 and 29, he says:

"But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. "Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge."

This seems to imply that there is a ministry of tongues and interpretation that can take place in the congregation. Then there is a ministry where the Prophets begin to speak to the congregation. When he says, "let the other judge," I believe that means the other Prophets or the other elder Prophets should judge the word rather than the Body judge it. I don’t believe that the Body would have the ability to judge, because they are there to be led. So it means, "Let the elders that are flowing in that same realm (in that same vein), let them begin to discern and judge."

"If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace."

Verse 30

So we can see that if anything is revealed to any of the other Prophets who are sitting by, let the first
hold his peace.

I believe this is an area where the Lord is going to bring us into maturity, especially in team ministry. I have had the privilege of ministering in team ministry and in a company of Prophets while I was traveling around the country. In nearly every service (we would have three meetings a day), we would have two or three Prophets speak in every setting. Now, because of this, we appointed a senior Prophet for that setting, and he would set the pace or say what was to be done. While one person was ministering, one of the other Prophets, that was in that team often quickened. The Prophets were sensitive to the Spirit and would stop and say, "Come and share that." The person who was asked to share brought another dimension of what was in the mind and purpose of God. This type of flow can only be developed out of a covenant relationship, developing a sensitivity to the Spirit, and teaching people how to flow together.

Oftentimes when moving together in presbytery, you can sense when someone else has something. You must tell your flesh to decrease so the Holy Spirit can increase and have the freedom to flow through whomever He wills.

I believe we are going to begin to see ministry coming to the Body where God is not going to speak through one man, but He is going to speak through a plurality of men in bringing forth the full purposes of God.
However, with a senior man in charge, we will see what we read in Samuel. Samuel stood over the Prophets as being appointed over them, orchestrating and keeping the order and the flow so they wouldn’t thrust one another through and so there would be no conflict.

“For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.
“And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.
“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace . . .”

Verses 31-33

We want you to note that the spirit of the Prophets is subject to the Prophets. I’ve been in meetings where someone would begin to prophesy and the person in authority said, “Just hold that prophecy. Hold that word right there, and let me finish my thought.” After the person had finished his thought, he said, “Okay, now give us the Word of the Lord.” This is not out of order. It is completely in the divine flow and order. There are other times when you might tell someone, “Just hold that word. I will speak to you after the service.”

I like what one particular local fellowship did. The Minister said that when the Word of the Lord comes, they acknowledge the voice of the King by having everyone stand. The elders stand; then the rest of the congregation stands to acknowledge that it is the voice of the King. When they felt it wasn’t God, the elders would remain sitting, which means
the congregation knows to put that word on the shelf. I thought it was an excellent way to handle prophecy in the local church.

The New Song

Singing a new song unto the Lord flows in the prophetic realm. A new song is usually an unrehearsed series of inspired words put to song.

There is a song that can come from the church to the Lord, and then there can be a song from the Lord to the church. I believe we will see the songs of the Lord bursting forth as never before.

Psalm 149 talks about singing a new song unto the Lord and the results of it.

"Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. "Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. "Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. "For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. "Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; "To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; "To bind their kings with chains, and their
nobles with fetters of iron;

"To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the Lord."

If you don’t sing, we don’t encourage you to sing a song of the Lord, especially in services. Reserve that for those who are gifted in that area. On a few occasions where someone was getting ready to sing, I have said, “Just speak the song.” You see, that’s scriptural, too.

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

Ephesians 5:18-19

There is a praying in the Spirit and a singing in the Spirit. Therefore, I believe that which we sing in the Spirit can also be sung in our understanding. There is also a praying in the Spirit and a praying in our understanding.

"What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

I Corinthians 14:15

You can take a child who has been trained a certain way, but if he continues to listen to a certain type of music, the very beat or rhythm of that music
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can drum past his soul into his thinking and get into his spirit, causing the child to do things that are totally against what the parents taught him. It is almost like hypnotism. I believe the church has been hypnotized by some songs.

We need to understand that when a song book does not line up with the Word of God, it needs to be thrown out!

I think when we begin to look at some of our songs, especially songs that we have sung in a lot of the traditional black churches, we see some of those songs have come out of slavery and we have brought them over into our spiritual experience. I am sure you know some of the songs I am talking about. Simply remember, when the song does not line up with the Word, throw it out and begin to sing the Psalms.

I personally believe that we need to sing the Scriptures again, to sing the Word of the Lord, and to proclaim the defeat of the enemies of God on the earth in songs.

Colossians 3:16 and 17 says:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
I believe a church becomes whatever it sings. This verse says "Teaching and admonishing one another." Whatever we sing are the things that become a part of our spirit. We need to begin to sing songs like, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," songs that are victorious and triumphant, songs that begin to display a church that is going to be a glorious church — not a weak church.

As we begin to go into aspects of teaching and admonishing one another in songs, I believe we need to see the spirit of the songwriter rise in the House of the Lord. We can begin to teach the congregation, not only by the doctrine of standing up and speaking, but also by singing the message of the Lord.

Anointed Music

In the Old Testament, we have evidence of the fact that the minstrel released the prophetic anointing.

In II Kings 3:15, Elisha called for the minstrel.

"But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him."

It seemed as though the minstrel set the pace and the tone for the prophetic anointing to begin to arise. I have found that oftentimes when the musicians are playing, they tend to orchestrate the tone of a meeting. I have found without fail that when
the music is off-key or out of tune, you get off-the-wall prophecy. Something seems to go out of flow. I have watched at times when music was playing in the background softly, there would be an anointing in the room, there would be a flow, and if something got out of the flow, you could hear it almost instantly.

Music is so important in the church, because the worship service can almost determine the degree of the impact of the service.

In I Samuel 10:5-10, music was connected with the spirit of prophecy. We also see that in the temple, music released the glory of God.

"After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy:

"And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

"And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

"And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do."
“And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. “And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”

Are you beginning to see the importance of developing worship leaders to be seers in the realm of music who begin to flow in the prophetic realm?

**Styles of Delivery**

We have briefly touched on styles of delivery in the prophetic ministry. To me, one of the most beautiful things is to hear people prophesy in poetry. We used to do it quite a bit in our local fellowship, especially when we were in New Jersey. The people would come forth with the Word of the Lord in rhyme and poetry, and it was such a beautiful flow of the Holy Spirit.

Then you have singing prophecy where people can sing the Word of the Lord or the prophetic word, then there is symbolic prophecy, where the person has a way of demonstrating the Word of the Lord.

I remember when a man began to prophesy over me in our local church. He grabbed me by my tie, pulled me, and said, “The Word of the Lord is going to come upon you in such a degree that when you begin to prophesy, you will teach as if you are
reaching out for a man's tie and pulling him. As you begin to prophesy, it will grab men's lives and pull them into the purposes of God.” (He never let go of my tie the entire time he was prophesying!)

This same man once grabbed a woman's tongue. (This is another example of symbolic prophecy.) He told the woman to stick out her tongue, which she did. Now, for this type of stuff, you must know what you are doing! You'd better know the voice of the Lord! He grabbed the woman's tongue and said, "This is the thing that has been bringing much pain and hurt to others, and this is the thing that has brought much pain and hurt to you."

Even though this was a prophetic word of warning from the Lord, this same woman, some two years later, wrote a book which caused a split in the church.

It is interesting to move in the prophetic flow using symbolism. We have had opportunity to move in it a little, though it hasn't been a strong emphasis in our ministry. I believe that as the prophetic office continues to grow, the Lord will do more and more of this, but I believe it is reserved unto those who are mature.