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EKKLESIA AND PROPHETIC MINISTRY ACCORDING TO JESUS



EKKLESIA MANUAL

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EKKLESIA & PROPHETIC MINISTRY

According to JESUS

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A Young Ekklesia in Action

Having a revelation of a young Ekklesia (church) through a completely different lens has stirred me in so many ways as I saw how the original twelve functioned, not only as a group, but also individually as they found themselves knitted together for a greater purpose. These young, happy, transparent, courageous and vulnerable men and women, were winning a world for Jesus through simplicity, and single heartedness. You cannot help yourself but be moved when you receive a revelation of a gathering as it was meant to be, — energized and flexible, ready to believe, to obey, to give, to suffer, and if need be ready to die!

The Holy Spirit found what He was seeking for, — a fellowship of men and women so united in love and faith that He could work in them, and through them with a minimum of hindrances, being of one mind, one heart, united and moving in one accord. This was a team, a group uniquely designed to take on the harvest field!

With one Spirit led activity after another, these were the ones that Jesus spoke of when He referred to a wind that blows and where it comes and where it goes is all part of a life that is born in the Spirit. These ones accepted Jesus and enjoyed the deepest possible fellowship ever while the Kingdom of heaven landed all around them! I cannot help but look at the spiritual power that burned within this young group, expressed not only by healing the body, but also by the many signs and wonders that followed. They were not only friends of God, but all of heaven knew their names! I could only imagine the volume of books that could have been written!

But we in today's time have unquestionably lost something in our journey. We, as a gathering, are missing the very essence of what it is that they had. It has somehow slipped through our fingers. What we truly need is a revelation of an Ekklesia according to what Jesus modeled, because what they had, — changed the planet.

Ekklesia According To Jesus

1 - Ekklesia Rising

Ekklesia, as exemplified by Jesus, and demonstrated by His disciples, needs to kick back into gear during this latter day season that we are presently walking in, — especially if we plan to go the distance!

As we walk in a Freedom according to what Jesus released and modeled, we can now walk in an Ekklesia where we are seriously taking care of our Fathers business. We can now walk in a church model that was always meant to be as in accordance to what Jesus laid out in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, and what the disciples modeled in the Book of Acts Chapter 2. As we embrace that model, with the new freedoms that we now find ourselves walking in, ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’, will now have the potential to go completely go off the charts.

1 - 1 Ekklesia Background

Ekklesia: to the Greeks it meant “*assemble*”, to the Hebrews it meant “*gathering*”, but to Jesus, based on His example, He meant it to be “*a gathering on the move*”.

In the original manuscripts the word “church” never existed! The original word was “Ekklesia”, and it was never meant to be something static. It was always meant to be very fluid. It was to be a gathering, a movement, with Kingdom authority, setting the captives free! It was all about moving forward with the Father’s business!

Over a dozen years ago an exodus began where as many as 80% of the church left the building according to North American statistics. With God playing His part in the exodus, I realized that church was once again in transition. What was meant to be a vehicle designed to shepherd the people has somehow disconnected from its original design. Then 2020 came and everything changed once again.

During those days of the great exodus, I realized that the five-fold ministry model consisting of Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Evangelists and Teachers was not the culprit for the scattering. Could it be that the ministry of the five-fold was misunderstood? Maybe! Was it mishandled? That could very well be! Trying to figure it out caused me to take a deeper look at the overall umbrella, — that church covering that was meant to protect the five-fold ministry. What caused the DNA of that covering to crumble so badly? Well what I discovered was that we had the application backwards! The five-fold was to be the covering for the church, not the other way! That revelation alone caused a huge paradigm shift in my thinking.

1 - 2 Ekklesia! So What Does that Really Mean?

The whole Ekklesia thing is starting to look more like a lost language, — a lost concept, designed for some kind of movement! So if Jesus was the original template for the fivefold ministry, and if He truly landed with his Father's Kingdom, and both the fivefold ministry model and the Kingdom of heaven have a zero history when it comes to bloopers, then my conclusion is that the church walked out of a recent season with a model that was never designed to give us the success that we needed to make it through these last days!

If that be true, then what does the Ekklesia model need to look like for a gathering that is now heading into the last days? This is important to know because we all fit in the mix somewhere, and it seems that the functionality of it all is in our willingness to interconnect!

1 - 3 Five-Fold Ministry Model / Team

MOST of what we called the Five-Fold in the past 50 years has been a huge distortion. Somehow we need to bring it back into alignment.

Each of us has been imparted with some type of ministry mix. Generally, we walk in a mix of ministries. Rarely is it one ministry. Plus we have been equipped with gifts and abilities to walk out that mix according to how God is molding us.

Ephesians 4:11-16

“ For we are all called to come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we may grow up in all things unto Him who is the head, — Christ, from whom the whole body joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

In other words, anyone operating in part of the mix, or in all of the mix, is just someone who has experienced enough of the trials and tribulations to simply serve and mentor others in the gathering.

Early Ekklesia tells us that it was a gathering of elders (those mature ones in the five-fold) who teamed together with their gifts in a joint effort to help serve and guide others to grow in the Lord, with the prime directive of raising others into the fullness in their calling.

The five-fold is really a collection of spiritual job descriptions designed to correlate for the releasing and modeling of true ministry. It was always designed for the Bride of Christ to model Jesus! The gifts and responsibilities were never designed to elevate one above the other, but to model a five-fold that was on a level playing field, releasing a Kingdom that was totally in sync with his Father, everyone of equal value uniquely outfitted with gifts and ministries, all functioning as a team.

First of all, to be truly qualified as an apostle, you need to be walking at some capacity in all four of the other ministries. As one who is sent out, you need to be equipped to do the job. Jesus walked that model as He demonstrated all the ministries to His disciples before sending them off. My guess is that one of the reasons why the last model headed towards the cliff was that those, who claimed to be apostles, were missing the wisdom and the understanding of how the different ministries actually functioned, and how the giftings interrelated, — a model that seemed to be heading for disaster the moment it was released.

It was never about a position in an autocratic way but a posturing of a team going down the harvest field together, embracing the responsibility to serve and esteem others by showing a genuine interest for one another. If genuine love exists in our gatherings, then in our actions, we would truly contend for one another as God contends for us!

1 - 4 The Five-Fold

Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher

It is important to note that what we call the five fold ministry are actually God given, Spirit anointed and appointed positions. What has been distorted now needs to be realigned, for these offices, without exception are selfless. Their responsibility according to Ephesians 4 is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the Ekklesia, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to deceive us. Instead, we will pursue unity; speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part plays its part, it helps the others grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

These gifts were not designed for individuals only, but rather for those who have gathered. They were intended for a bottom-up model so that the gathering can grow and mature while learning to serve. These roles have always been about others and not about self, — to exhort, encourage, train, impart, mentor and release so that the body can attain a Christ like standard, discerning truth while understanding its roles within the body until unity kicks into gear. It's about being selfless allowing other parts to grow in love. But this bottom up model will always end up in conflict if the five-fold directs itself to building its own personal ministries rather than building the Ekklesia (church) that Jesus intended.

APOSTLE *in the Ekklesia model*

An apostle is known as one called and sent, having the spiritual authority, character, gifts and the abilities to reach and establish people in Kingdom truth and Kingdom order. An apostle hears from heaven and receives Kingdom downloads regarding implementation and governance of the five-fold. An apostle has a burden to build and establish something, or activate the restoration process of something lost. This is not about change for the sake of change but is about the fulfillment of a God given direction. The apostles lay a foundation down for those gathered so that they would come into full maturity. That maturity comes with prophetic insight, the ability to shepherd and teach, and to evangelize almost on a prophetic level, but because it's a Kingdom based ministry, it needs to be testified with signs and wonders followed with healing and restoration. The apostle is like a conductor of an orchestra, having a supernatural ability to keep it all on track, having the patience to see all the pieces come together, being the biggest servant of all when it comes to training, releasing, and most importantly, — aligning it with the timing as to how and when it should all unfold.

PROPHET *in the Ekklesia model*

Having to stand in the counsel of God, the prophet releases what is on the heart of God giving guidance to the gathering and to individuals, giving revelation, as well as prophetic insight, with the correct interpretation, application, and proper delivery time. A true prophet's message will be in agreement with the Word of God. His words will edify the gathering that is before him and the core of any message will exalt the Son of God and the Cross. Prophets are called to serve the body and not run ahead. As the many prophets are still growing and maturing, a safe environment is needed for the weighing and testing before any words are released. A needed relationship between apostle and pastor is important for the prophet and any gathering. Experience has taught us that neglecting this part has been catastrophic to both ministries and gatherings. This is where the rubber hits the road for Ekklesia. These 3 need to make it work! That is why the model of Ekklesia, and being knitted is so important to give the prophet and the prophetic a chance to stay on track with what the heart of God truly is.

EVANGELIST *in the Ekklesia model*

The evangelist carries a great burden for those who are not currently a part of the Kingdom of God. Evangelists have an anointing to preach the gospel that comes with a great conviction that draws people to the Lord. They will often have signs and wonders following them to confirm their message. Evangelists create converts, while apostles create disciples. Their foremost desire is to see people come into the Kingdom while leaving the work of discipleship to others. They love teaching others how to win converts, and never feel like they are actually doing enough to accomplish their task. While they grieve for the lost they have an anointing to impart God's broken heart to the body. Evangelists are absolutely crucial for growth as the gathering moves forward.

PASTOR *in the Ekklesia model*

The pastor is the heart of any gathering. He is a shepherd who deeply cares for those who have gathered; ready to lay down everything and anything for them. His heart is to see them grow, and to be equipped and trained as they develop their giftings. He has a passion to see them step into the calling that God has for them. Pastors are supportive, life giving but without the need to be in the forefront at all times. A true pastor recognizes the fact that Jesus is the true shepherd, and that his flock, or his gathering of believers really belongs to Jesus and not to him. Likewise a true shepherd, following in the footsteps of his Master, will also put his life on the line for those that have gathered around him. He will not abandon them, but the hireling will flee when the wolves come, and in every Holy Spirit filled gathering the wolves will not hesitate to attack. This shepherd (pastor) will guard and lay his life down for the fold and is totally dependent on hearing from the True Shepherd. As Ekklesia moves forward they will move with him because of the love that he has demonstrated. At times the pastor becomes the bridge helping to interconnect the different ministries, callings and functions. He is able to do this because of his ability to listen to all sides, restoring the calm and discerning the atmosphere as he moves the gathering down the harvest field. His concern is always the well being and protection of those that have gathered around him.

TEACHER *in the Ekklesia model*

While they teach and edify the body, they impart divine life with an anointing to their listeners who become hungrier for the word as scripture is illuminated bringing forth truth and fresh revelation. While prophets reveal the heart of God, teachers reveal more of the mind, the character, and the nature of God. They open up our minds to understanding how God functions and who He is, — as the Spirit of truth, wisdom, and knowledge give it prophetic direction. Spirit-led teachers. — and not

necessarily the academics, are what's prime in this calling for these are Spirit-given offices. Prophets and teachers balance each other in the body. Prophets have revelation of hidden things in the future, while teachers have revelation of the hidden things in the word. Teachers reveal the specifics of the revealed truth, while prophets reveal the bigger spectrum. Prophets possess foresight, teachers have insight. While prophets are risk takers, teachers move by understanding. Teachers are very essential as they give the gathering a good foundation of the word of God.

1 - 5 Ekklesia - The Five-Fold Model Defined

In other words, if I had to guess, based on what Jesus released while travelling from place to place, based on all that was witnessed, based on all that was being testified, and based on all the signs and wonders that followed, Jesus was demonstrating and releasing Ekklesia, — a gathering, a movement, a Kingdom government, with Kingdom authority, to set the captives free. In other words, Jesus plans on building His Father's House, with full authority, backed with angels, fuelled by the Holy Spirit and with a ton of prophetic intel, so that He may release the very things that are upon His Father's heart.

“All that Jesus was modeling was not in a static form, but in more of a fluid form. This Kingdom, this house, this authority was totally mobile, and because it was designed to be far reaching, He made it highly transferable! His original intent is that we too would walk in the very model that He has laid out, — as we press on to pursue the Father's business, with the heart of the Father.”

Jesus staked the ground and said that His Father's Kingdom has landed and that it was now on the move, steering itself towards captivity, to set the captives free, and restore what was lost, — to rebuild, revive, renew, refresh, and to have redemption kick into high gear, for these are the very things that are upon His Father's heart.

But the fivefold ministry was still being carved out in the lives of the disciples, as the completed model in Jesus became their constant witness. As Jesus was on the move, modeling and functioning in the apostolic, the disciples learned first-hand while going from place to place, what those ministries would look like!

According to the model that Jesus demonstrated, it always was about Kingdom ministry, and we are at that place once again where we need to preach the gospel and let it follow with signs and wonders. The Kingdom of God is not only to be preached in word, but it should follow with the power to heal and the power to restore, for this is our banqueting table of a power that is available unto our salvation (1st Thessalonians 1:5). It really is the continuation of the book of Acts. It is this very world within a world that Jesus demonstrated (Acts 1:8). He is the doorway of a heavenly Kingdom that He unleashed amongst His twelve apostles, and now that it's been unloaded, a greater level of that Kingdom is about to be unleashed in these last days, as the latter will be greater than the former!

“ When Jesus released the original Ekklesia, (a gathering on the move), He mentioned twice the need to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, and lay hands and heal the sick - Mark 16:15-20 and Mathew 10:7 If it is a lost language as we perceive it to be, then we are about to engage with it again, for if we truly are about to enter into a whole new playing field, then it's time to let the process have its way in us so that we can move into the realm of 'Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' - Matthew 6:10 ”

This processing of the gathering has been on the radar for the past few years now, but to most of us, it's a whole new experience. It really is time to step out from the isolation and step into the season at hand. If you are one whom God has forged through the fires of the Holy Spirit, then you need to start gathering with those who are like-minded, for we have entered the season of the gathering. If our creative God is on the move, then we need to creatively make movement ourselves.

God is gathering what has been scattered! So for those that have found themselves going through some type of wilderness experience, now is the time to allow the Spirit of God to direct your footsteps. Now is the time to actually function as a team, to move in one accord, to move in a true model of the Ekklesia, for it really is about teamwork. The autocratic way needs to make room for Ekklesia, for we need to start working as a unit, in one accord, interconnected, everyone contributing, as we go down the field together. It's no different than a hockey team or a football team, or any other team that's trying to work the grid. For any team that is pounding that grid, there are usually operating systems in place (kingdom guidelines) to help create movement so that the whole unit can enter into its destiny. So for Ekklesia, what would that look like? If the Kingdom of heaven functions under a heavenly operating system, and the animal kingdom functions on its own operating system, then Ekklesia, in fulfillment of Jesus' prayer, " Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ", must also have an operating system to keep it in balance as Holy Spirit, men, and angels function together!

1 - 6 The Operating System

What does " Boots to the Ground " under Ekklesia look like ?

Holy Spirit has graced people with a personal empowering presence of God to enable them to be that extension of a loving God in a lost world.

Philippians 2:1-4

" If there is any fellowship that we share in the Spirit, any comfort of love, any great depth of affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, and of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition, strife, or vain deceit, but with an attitude of humility being neither arrogant nor self-righteous, regard others as more important than yourselves. Do not only search out only your interests, but search out the interest of others also."

1 Corinthians 14:26

“ Well, my brothers and sisters, let's summarize. When you meet together, one will sing, another will teach, another will tell some special revelation God has given, one will speak in tongues, and another will interpret what is said. But everything that is done must strengthen all of you.”

Romans 12:3-8

“ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 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; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

Romans 14:9

“So then let us pursue what leads to peace and to mutual edification.”

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the same Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”

Romans 15:2

“ Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.”

1 - 7 Ekklesia Conclusion

It's only when we gather in faith trusting that God is truly bringing us together (while committing to unity) that we will begin to see the intensity of what God really has planned for the gathering in this season. He plans to be magnified, and this season truly has the glory of God all over it, for it is in this very place of unity where the commanded blessing is released. The breath of God will come and He plans to raise an amazing group of people for an amazing journey!

Our Guarantee for Success is based on these principles:

Psalm 133:1-3

“ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, — Life forevermore.”

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another, — and all the more as you see the day approaching.”

2 - Ministry of Jesus

2 - 1 Jesus - Our Anchor & Sure Foundation

When attempting to build a solid foundation for any ministry, a true cornerstone needs to be laid first.

1st Corinthians 3:11 says “ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” 1st Peter 2:6 also talks about Jesus being that chosen rock. In Psalm 18:2, David says, “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation.”

Chief Cornerstone

Jesus is not just the foundation, and He is not only the whole building, He is also the commonwealth. Acts 4:10-12 says, “Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, — this is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we are saved.”

Many have found that without the proper foundation when expanding the book of Acts, their attempts to bring continuance has been a bit of a stage act. Now that we are entering into the latter days, we really need to make sure that the basics are covered. Friends of God and lovers of Jesus who have no personal agenda will most likely end up getting that call when bringing continuance to the Ministry of Jesus.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul affirms the one sure foundation and that God provides for one body, and that the entire plan is being promoted by one Spirit! Jesus is the surest, strongest and most steadfast foundation ever laid. We are to grow up in all aspects unto Him. All of the ministries are merely vessels through which He ministers to His gathering.

“ We can have great experiences, but we will not have that Ekklesia way of life that the Lord intended until the apostolic Ekklesia Prophetic Ministries are restored as they were released upon the original 12 apostles.”

These ministries are foundational for a true Ekklesia life experience because they were the foundation of Jesus’ Ministry. Prophetic Ministry and Prophecy are key to where He is taking us in these last days.

2 - 2 Jesus - There is No Mistaking His Identity

The claims of Jesus are clear and explicit; all has been confirmed, “I am the bread of life,” “I am the light of the world,” “I am the door,” “I am the good shepherd,” “I am the resurrection,” “I am the Son of God,” “I am the truth, life, and way,”

Jesus is claiming Titles that are rightfully His, — Son, Savior, Shepherd, Sustainer, and maybe 200 more!

He clearly demonstrated that He is able to conquer death, forgive sin, save the soul, and satisfy the heart forever more!

For this Jesus, and who He claims to be, has become our way of life, our peace, our righteousness, our holiness, and our road of prophetic ministry and revelation.

The Word of God expresses the Son and the Son expresses the Word. The Truth reveals the Son, and the Son reveals the Truth. The Scriptures interpret the Son, and the Son interprets the Scriptures. Wisdom unveils the Son, and the Son unveils Wisdom. The Father declares the Son and the Son declares the Father.

There is no mistaking His Identity. When it comes to salvation you cannot ignore Him. If you're searching for reconciliation, sanctification or redemption, to omit Him would be ridiculous, for He is the only completed way to the Father. He is the total package!

The Way, The Truth, and The Life

Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me.", and in Acts 4:12 Peter says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." So if there is only one way, then the basis of all ministry really needs to be steering us not only individually but also corporately into that one way.

“ He is not only the way, but He is also the chief cornerstone, the foundation, the builder, — as a matter of fact, He is the one who has already empowered it all. So if He is the Model, then we need to be going in that very direction that has been laid out for us, for a powerful sacrifice was made to clear the way. When analyzing it all, it's easy to see that Jesus is the central figure in everything that we are about to enter into! If that is true, then everything He did was an example for us.”

Look at how Jesus is portrayed in the Gospels! In Matthew, Jesus is the King revealed! In Mark, He is portrayed as the redeeming one! In Luke, He is pictured as the reconciler, and in John, He is proclaimed as a regenerator, — one who makes all things new! When you think of all those titles, — revealer, redeemer, reconciler and regenerator, it really sounds like the qualities that all ministry needs to flow out of.

For any ministry to have the needed power and longevity for the season that we are about to enter, we need to start aligning ourselves. Everything we are, everything we say, and any ministry Jesus invites us into, needs to line up with these same qualities!

John 12:32 says. “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me.” Now if He is drawing people unto Himself then we just need to make ourselves available to His plans. Pulling out the ministry props is what will get us into trouble. We just need to be available and move in that one direction.

“Also, if He is the living Word that became flesh, and dwelt amongst us, who is now seated in heaven, then we, as family members, must become living conduits of that Word. This means that if we engage in any position, particularly within the five-fold ministry, we need to accept the tremendous responsibility when handling and landing what it is that He has called us to do.”

When delivered, our service to others needs to bear fruit. It needs to be presented and served like apples of gold in settings of silver. Most importantly, if it is on behalf of the King, it needs to have that redeeming quality that He Himself walks in, never forgetting that any redemptive package needs to be fully armed with love, — an unconditional love that is!

2 - 3 Jesus - The Rock

The word “Rock” was used several times by David. No doubt he was referring to an actual being when he said: “The Rock of Israel spoke to me”. Moses declared, “He is the Rock, His way is perfect . . . a God of truth . . . just and right is He”, and later on he writes about the great power that resides upon that Rock, with its gracious ways, and its governing attributes.

Isaiah also proclaims for us to “Trust in Jehovah for ever; for in Jehovah, even Jehovah, is an everlasting Rock.” The appearance of that Rock after the Red Sea deliverance was a spiritual pre-pattern of Jesus. That large Rock at Meribah was struck for the sake of Israel, and so also was Jesus struck for our sakes. Life-giving waters flowed out of the Meribah Rock, and life-giving waters have been flowing out of Jesus ever since!

How befitting when the Psalmist said. “Jehovah is my defense; and my God, the Rock of my refuge”. Paul connects The Rock of Ages with Christ being that solid Rock to the Corinthians, “For I do not want you to be unaware, that our fathers were all under the cloud, all went through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from a spiritual rock, and that rock was Christ.”

The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Those rock-like characteristics of God are the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus was, and is, and always will be that Rock. When Jesus asked His disciples, “ Who do men say that I am? ” Jesus’ response to Peter’s answer was that he was blessed, for that revelation was only made possible through His Heavenly Father, and it is upon that very Rock that He plans to build and release His Ekklesia, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it.

“ What a revelation it is to know that the one that we have come to trust and rely upon, truly is the rock of ages, that solid rock, the one who is strong everlasting, eternally steadfast, enduringly supreme, and excellent in power.”

So it is not presumptuous on our part to claim Him as our Rock and our Fortress, for Jesus, and He alone, has become our strong habitation, our sure foundation, and our solid Rock.

2 - 4 Titles of Jesus

Jesus is Central in Kingdom Ministry

Jesus has truly manifested and continues to manifest Himself to us in so many different ways. He is a Lion, and He is also a Lamb. He came as the Prince of Peace. He is the Rock, the Alpha and Omega, the Good Shepherd, the Bright and Morning Star, and Door of the Sheep. He is a Greater than Solomon, the Unspotted Lamb, the True Light, the Word of God, the Vanquisher, the Wisdom of God, and Wonderful Counselor. He's the King of the Jews, the King of Israel, the King of Righteousness, the King of the Ages, the King of Heaven, the King of Glory, the King of Kings, and He is the Lord of Lords, and the list goes on and on, — over 200 to be exact. He supplies strength for the weak. He guards and guides. He heals the sick, cleanses the lepers, forgives sinners, discharges debtors, delivers the captives, defends the feeble, blesses the young, serves the unfortunate, regards the aged, rewards the diligent, and beautifies the meek. He is the key of knowledge, the wellspring of wisdom, the doorway of deliverance, the pathway of peace, the roadway of righteousness, the highway of holiness, and the gateway of glory, and yet He said that He came to bring a sword.

The Following 5 Titles will help us understand who is the real driving force behind all Kingdom ministry, and why the presence of each one is crucial to authenticate Ekklesia Kingdom Ministry whether it be that of Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, Teacher or any other ministry Jesus calls us to walk in.

1) Jesus - The Ark of the Lord

Prophetic Ministry should have His Presence in it!

This is one of the most complete and comprehensive types of Christ in the bible. The ark consisted of a gold plated chest with two cherubs mounted on top, facing one another, overshadowing the mercy seat,

which represented the atoning blood of Jesus. The choice of materials used was very emblematic of Jesus Christ. The Ark was a picture of who He really represents while the presence of incense and the atoning blood demonstrated his character as mediator for reconciliation, and when the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the actual mercy seat the glory of God appeared. This was a picture of the heavenly glory of God. There angels stand before His throne and praise Him day and night. It was also a picture of the restored presence of God through the resurrection of Christ. Inside the ark was a golden urn holding the manna (Jesus being the bread from heaven), Aaron's staff that budded (Jesus being the chosen and anointed one to represent the Father), and the tablets of the covenant were placed within the Ark (Jesus being that covenant of grace to cover the law). Like the ark, being a place of Gods presence, this very same presence of God has been restored to the believer in the resurrection of Jesus.

2) Jesus - The Power of God

Prophetic Ministry should have His Restoration Power in it!

Jesus Himself is the supernatural substance of divine power. This title of being the power of God tells us that He is the very essence of Godly power. He, Himself, declared in Matt. 28:18 that "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and earth." He is the instrument of power. The very nature of its magnitude can neither be expanded nor can it be minimized. 1 Cor. 1:24 says that Jesus is not only the power of God, but also the wisdom of God. This power, as redeemer, ordained Him to manifest it through the impartation of grace, gifts, and goodness, — all through His omnipotent hand. The transformation of lives, the demonstrations of love, and the continual revelations of the invisible realities, as His Father's Kingdom lands all around Him, are all administered through His hand. His power pervades every realm, and that power during the resurrection, where He, Himself, had the power to lay His own life down, and the power to take it again was a clear demonstration. Jesus is the power of God!

3) Jesus - The Builder of the Temple

Prophetic Ministry should recognize Who is doing the Building!

Behold the man whose name is the Branch . . . and He shall build the temple of the Lord, (Zech. 6:12) also (Matt. 16:18) and (Eph. 2:20, 22). The temple that was rebuilt by the remnant, those that returned to Jerusalem from Babylon, was a temporary structure. Some significant features that have been identified with Solomon's temple were withheld. That would include the tablets, the ark, the holy fire and the Shekinah glory. However He promised a greater builder and a greater glory, — one who would surpass in workmanship any of the structures erected by man. living stones cut from the quarries of human nature molded by the Spirit of God into a holy temple in the Lord. This temple is constructed from lives that will bear evidence of His character and nature, and the dedication of this temple, when completed, will be an amazing day as it ushers in a Kingdom reign, a confirmed victory, and a regenerated world.

4) Jesus - The Glory of God

Prophetic Ministry should have His Glory in all of it!

“ The Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us and we beheld His glory.” (John 1:14). Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” (John 11:40). Glory is as difficult to define as light because of its excellence in divine character having the full expression of a deity that is blended in perfect unity. John speaks about the glory of God that is exhibited in the face of Jesus Christ. He is the pinnacle of the entire presentation of truth revealed in the Old Testament, manifested in the flesh in the New Testament, with the principal purpose set out in the final unveiling. His glory is everlasting, a glory that was with the Father before the world ever was. He is the brightness of God's glory and the fullness of the Godhead. He is not only the Lord of glory but the glory of the Lord.

Although He is the brightness of God's glory, He embraces a child and encompasses a star. He expresses a whisper and employs the thunder. He heals the leper, tends to the broken hearted, and raises the dead. Every part of His work, every part of His will, every word spoken, and every part of His wisdom utters His glory. Any prophetic ministry we walk in should reveal that glory.

5) Jesus - The Wisdom of God

Prophetic Ministry should be armed with His wisdom!

The supreme expression of wisdom is personified in Jesus, whom God has set forth as being the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24). He is the source, the spring and the stream, and without it, wisdom is unarmed, for power itself is useless without wisdom (Jesus) to direct it. One of wisdom's defining characteristics is that it is free from defects and defilements, and that greater premium of wisdom is accessible through Jesus, full of mercy and good fruits, for in God's great gift to us resides perfect wisdom, for the eyes of our understanding are enlightened that we may behold Him who personifies heavenly wisdom (Eph. 3:16), bountiful in goodness, kindness, righteousness and holiness. As this manifold expression of wisdom was demonstrated through the plan of redemption, we meet the supreme exhibition of the wisdom of God through Jesus who has established a greater covenant. He has become the chief cornerstone, the mediator, the foundation, the builder and defender of ekklesia, for in Him are all the spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3) and all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3).

We only touched on 5 Titles, — Jesus has over 200 !

The word “ massive ” is too small of a word to describe the magnitude of Jesus' overall identity! He truly is King of kings, and Lord of lords! He is second to none!

3 - Prophetic Ministry

3 - 1 Prophetic Ministry is all about Hearing

Prophecy, Prophetic Revelation, Gifts of Prophecy and the Office of a Prophet are all access points for Prophetic Language. It's the rhema of God, the spoken word of God through His appointed vessels.

Prophecy really is the doorway that reveals the heart of God's intentions and strategies: a language that is not only foretelling, but also reveals strategies, secrets, and the person of Jesus himself.

For us today, individually or corporately, it will confirm, in most cases, the very thing that He has already planted within us. It could speak of a season that we are about to enter, with the ability to define us even more as we move forward. It could also speak of a transition, — something we may need to leave behind, while containing the lessons learned, and while giving revelation of who we are in Him, defining our identity and our purpose. It could speak of our need to function as a people as He moves us forward. A cloud by day, a fire by night, — that's the potential power behind the prophetic as His presence rends the air before us. He is the way and He will make a way for us through prophetic ministry.

The key purpose of both the prophet and those walking in prophetic language is to reveal the glorious wonders of Jesus, — God manifested in the flesh and how He came to serve!

Spirit of Prophecy in Serving

So if the “Spirit of Prophecy” is a continuation of His serving, how much more should the prophetic language that we are about to enter into reflect His model of servant-hood?

This amazing Jesus whom I’ve come to know has over 200 titles attached to His name, and it’s growing. This is an astonishing resume where a lot of those titles have a redemptive quality to them, redemption being key to why He came in the first place! The other amazing quality, besides having all those titles, is how scripture clearly defines the fact that “The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy” (Revelation 19:10).

The original model was designed so that the 12 walk in one accord, being united, serving one another, and building each other up. It is in these surroundings that we get to see the Kingdom of God land with the creativeness that it so desires.

Spirit of Prophecy in Redemption

Therefore it would seem that when we step into prophetic ministry, the prophetic expression of ministry should have a redeeming component to it! It should be pointing to some level of restoration!

So when walking out prophetic revelation as it is intended, it’s amazing how the Kingdom expresses itself with the redeeming qualities that refresh, revive, restore, renew and release for that needed restoration, for it always was about restoring the captives and setting them free, the very things that we need to contend for today!

So for us today, what does a prophetic ministry look like under Ekklesia? There is so much to write when it comes to putting a basic manual together, but we have kept it simple and have decided to focus on two main points – The Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of Prophecy!

Spirit of Prophecy is a Powerful Force

Merge the two together and we'll end up with a powerful force that is second to none! Powerful towards the broken hearted, powerful towards the lost, and powerful towards those who are stumbling along the way! Jesus said, "The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and are life", (John 6:63). Those who walk in prophetic revelation will come to know of the power behind that Spirit and life! Those who hear His voice will be joined to the greatest power in the universe, for in one word creation was formed, and for us, those words upon our lips become a conduit for the greatest power in the universe.

Spirit of Prophecy becoming One with the Word

The more we understand spiritually about prophetic revelation, the more closely joined we become to the Word Himself, and the more precious and powerful our words will become. The more we value these words, the more careful we will be when handling it, — becoming even more careful as we grow in our awakening of its amazing power. The more careful we are, the more power our Lord can entrust us with as He sends us deeper into prophetic ministry as we line ourselves up with the Him who is the manifested word along with the rhema word.

If we do all this while entering into this present season, prophetic revelation will demonstrate its power far beyond what we could ever think or imagine! "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him" (1st Corinthians 2:9). The latter will be greater than the former.

3 - 2 Jesus - the Model for Prophetic Ministry

If Prophetic Ministry has everything to do with the Bride of Christ, would not the Bride Groom have a few things to say about it? You bet!

Spirit of Prophecy, the Doorway

Jesus is not only the Doorway, but also the Chief Cornerstone. As a matter of fact He is the whole building where all involved know Him as King of kings and Lord of lords to be exact. No different than the Ark of the Covenant being emblematic of Jesus. He is not only the Ark, He is the Holy of Holies, the Outer Court and the Inner Court. He is a manifestation of the Father manifesting His Father's business, not only in Word, but also by His physical actions, and Spiritually by the unleashing of His Father's Kingdom, all fueled by Prophetic Ministry.

He is also defined in scripture as "The Spirit of Prophecy". So if He is the total and complete package when it comes to prophecy, then any prophecy today should be a continuation of that "Spirit of Prophecy", and it should automatically line up with what the Father is building with the nature of Jesus, — to restore what was lost, take back what was stolen, to prepare earthen vessels to walk with holy fire, and to see a Bride arise for His Sons' return.

Defaulting the Spirit of Prophecy

If everything Jesus did represented His Father, and everything that the Father established was for the hidden mystery of Jesus to be revealed, then any prophetic language needs to follow the same spiritual flow. Our safeguard is to default any prophetic language upon the Chief Cornerstone.

For the chances of any revelation coming forward with the proper interpretation and application for restoration, it would be wise to place that revelation upon the cornerstone that heaven has provided for us. All true prophecy is His testimony. It comes from Him and draws us to Him.

To know Jesus and all that He truly represents will help in the processing of any prophetic revelation that may come our way, for He is the template and He is the standard when it comes to prophecy. He truly is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Armoring the Spirit of Prophecy

Jesus has clearly defined that He is all about love, that His Ekklesia is all about love, and that the five-fold functioning as a team is all about walking in that love, — and so should Prophetic Ministry!

When it comes to prophetic ministry, prophetic revelation and the workings of any prophetic giftings, or the prophet making his stand, it should all be presented in love. Any presentation should arm itself with enough love to obtain restoration, with His manifest presence and redeeming love coming with all the evidence that the Kingdom of God has actually landed.

Jesus, being our Example of what Prophecy looks like

While Jesus walked in our midst, hearing the Father's voice and doing what the Father was doing, clearly He was demonstrating a model of what prophetic ministry needs to look like. Since He is our example of hearing that voice, being that voice, and walking out that voice, then it is very clear that we need to step into that model that He has prepared. Known as "The Spirit of Prophecy" Jesus prays over those to whom He has given authority, and He states that He will now be glorified through those that are His.

We, who have been authorized on His behalf, now carry the same responsibility to be that presenter of His voice. That baton has been passed to us through prophetic ministry. But, to be that voice can be a bit of a process, and the series of events to process that voice all depends on the calling and the personality of the one being called.

3 - 3 The Gift of Prophecy

Prophecy is probably the most common gift and is given to most for the purpose of edifying other believers. Whether it's on a huge level or not, it can encourage. We are instructed to encourage one another daily; prophecy is that needed gift to help encourage those around us.

Acts 2:17-18

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

1 Corinthians 14:31

“For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted.”

1 Corinthians 14:1

“Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

3 - 4 Is Moving in Prophecy for Everyone?

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

1 Corinthians 14:5

“I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more to prophesy.”
Similar to tongues, the gift of prophecy can be sought by all and is frequently a sign of being filled with the Spirit.

Acts 19:6

“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

1 Corinthians 14:30-31

“All are permitted to prophecy, so long as they are interconnected and accountable to those that they have surrounded themselves with.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies . . . hold fast what is good.”

1 Corinthians 14:4

“A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire gathering.”

1 Corinthians 12:7

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. Not everyone receives the same gift, since these are distributed by the Holy Spirit.”

1 Corinthians 12:11

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

1 Corinthians 14:1

“To effectively build one another up.”

1 Corinthians 14:12

“So it is with you, since you are so very eager to have spiritual gifts and the manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building one another up in ways that will build the body up spiritually.”

3 - 5 The Prophetic

The Prophet - Friend of God

The Lord has entrusted Himself to the prophets. He will do nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets, (Amos 3:7) He has obligated Himself to share everything with His prophets simply because the foremost calling of a prophet is to be God's friend, someone with whom He can share His most intimate purposes.

But the Lord has by no means limited Himself to speaking only through those called as prophets, — but that is a prophet's primary function. Similarly, the Lord may choose to use anyone for healing, whether the person has a special gift of healing or not, but the one who has this gift will be devoted.

Those who call themselves a prophet, while leaving a continual body count behind them, are most likely walking in a delusion. Being deceived, they have by-passed the whole reason for prophetic ministry, and for the sake of self-preservation, for themselves and for their personal ministry, the spiritual body count will continue.

The Prophet and Ekklesia

If there is to be any true prophetic voice within Ekklesia, it must proceed from a pure heart and a righteous fear of the Lord. Respect for who He is and the preciousness of His Word is necessary if there is to be a prophetic ministry with integrity, for Psalm 25:14 says, "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him".

A true prophet is the spokesman of God, and speaks that part for the Ekklesia. He or she must stand in that place as both a messenger for God, and an intercessor for Ekklesia. Intercession is part of the prophet's makeup, as they are given for the equipping of the gathering, not being that main spokesperson, as they only see in part.

For in any gathering there will be both prophets and those who walk in prophetic revelation. Both contribute to help a gathering stay focused, as all the parts paint that bigger picture.

Paul also said, “For you can all prophesy one by one”, (1st Corinthians 14:31) Even though the hand is not the eye, when dark, one cannot use the eyes, and may feel his way around with his hands to “see” where he is going. While the Lord does appoint many believers to specialize in a ministry, this does not mean those are the only ones He will ever use for that ministry. Not everyone is a prophet, but all may prophesy. Every member of the body is different but all add to that bigger picture. We cannot expect other ministries to act like prophets, nor the prophets to be like other ministries.

How Prophets Differentiate

In Scripture every prophet was different from all of the other prophets. It is the nature of the Lord to be creative in His ways. He has made every person uniquely different, and as well as the location, the timing, and the season! But in our diversities, what an incredible responsibility there is to be that voice! When we limit the Lord, or the things of the Lord, to a certain pattern, we have greatly limited our ability to relate to Him and to hear from Him, and we are actually scaling back power that is the thrust of prophetic revelation.

Those who only receive a prophetic word to verify their ministry, and their vision are probably not receiving true prophetic revelation. Self appointed or self-seeking leaders will always be in conflict with true prophetic ministry and will often fall into a false prophetic ministry perverting any prophetic movement that they may be entering into. The false prophetic has always shown itself at the starting gate of any move that God unleashes. That false beast is always on time and is determined to weasel itself in, and it will have its way unless we nail down how the prophetic, and the revelation behind it should function under Ekklesia.

We See in Part, We Prophecy in Part

Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:12 I still have much to tell you but you are not ready to bear it. In 1 Corinthians 13:9 says we see in part and prophesy in part. An example of that can be found in 1 Kings 19:15-17 where we see God speaking to Elijah and declaring that he is to anoint two Kings and his own successor, an unknown and unproven prophet called Elisha. God tells Elijah very clearly that he is to anoint his successor and that Elisha will take out the enemies that the two kings missed. That in itself speaks of a person not having all the components or pieces to process what God is establishing.

For us today, it really speaks of our need to partner up with Ekklesia to establish that bigger picture of what God is doing. Then we see Elijah strike and part the water with his cloak. It was not until Elisha picked up Elijah's coat and struck the same water, duplicating that power whereby the 50 other prophets recognized Elisha as the successor to Elijah. It appears these guys did not get the memo and only saw in part. Not all will see the bigger picture of what is happening. Some will see in part and only a few will understand what God is really doing.

During these end times, these latter days, the prophetic will be on the increase. Just as reading the four gospels gives us a well rounded perspective, so will it be as we look through the many vantage points, and the many levels of maturity, to give us a full understanding of the prophetic direction for the season we have presently entered.

Training and Molding of a Prophet

A prophet's message is like setting up a beachhead. The training to become that beachhead is a bit of a process. There is that whole issue of integrity that needs to be defined. A typical prophet going through the maturing process has to deal with his or her integrity. Walking upon those blurred lines will always get us in trouble, plus there is the potential of steering those around us into those same troubled waters.

For a Prophet, there are three things that the Holy Spirit will send His refining fire upon as He sculpts prophetic people. One will be upon the language we use, and how that language needs to be the voice that truly represents heaven! Another will be upon our character and how that character needs to be that example as a model for others to follow! The last one is about the glory and who the voice is really representing. Is the One who is the driving force behind it all getting the recognition that He deserves?

Lack of integrity in a prophet will create a corporate black hole, followed by an ongoing spiritual body count as those in the gathering walk over the cliff with him. That is why the making of a prophet has always been a bit of a process. That process all depends on one's calling and personality, level of humility and integrity, and a willingness to submit to God who is using this process to define His character in us.

I personally know prophets who have been in the molding process for over 20 years. God is faithful and He will get us all through the process for He is establishing a good work in us! At the end of the molding process we will become that insignia ring that He has designed us to be when stamping out prophetic language and authority.

The Call of a Prophet

The call to be a prophet is very different from the gift of prophecy, as is the anointing and authority different from one another. The call, like the gift of prophecy, is given by the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19-21

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of the prophet, but men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 4:11

“And he gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Jeremiah 1:5

“ Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Prophets, the Eyes and Ears for any Gathering

“ Let those who have ears hear what the Spirit is saying ” The higher the prophetic revelation received by the prophet, the greater the impact that revelation will have as it all starts to unfold. God is still speaking to us today, and we would benefit greatly if we’d try and start hearing what the Spirit is saying through the prophets He has for us today.

Prophets are builders as they assist with building up through direction, encouragement and vision, similar to Haggai and Zechariah. Prophets help when laying down a foundation, as they train and teach others about prophetic ministry.

Prophets, as well as prophetic gifts, need to be handled through teamwork where there is accountability. With that in place, both the prophets and the body should mature together. If we are not careful to cultivate that place of accountability, it will cost us dearly down the road.

Prophecy is a sign of God’s approval and a blessing upon a gathering, showing that God is actively present. A heightened sense and awareness of His presence is a clear sign to an unbeliever that God is really amongst us.

Note: Maturing prophets must be willing to receive feedback. Prophecy needs to be weighed and tested, and the whole process needs to be done in a fitting way that allows all involved to mature.

3 - 6 Let All Things be Done Decently

When coming together . . .

How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, *has a revelation*, has an interpretation. *Let all things be done for the building up.* If any man speaks in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter let him keep silence in the ekklesia; and let him speak to himself, and to God. *Let the prophets speak two or three*, and *let others weigh what has been said*. If anything be revealed to another that is seated by, let the first hold his peace. *For you 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 . . . let all things be done decently and in order.” - **1st Cor. 14:26-40**

So let's break it down . . .

Each one has a revelation.

At every gathering, the prophetic voice of God is present. Prophetic revelation is there to tap into. The gift of prophecy waits for its release. A well-connected group under a five-fold protocol could easily facilitate that. That prophetic word is probably all that is needed to unleash a miracle, unleash the glory of God, — and remember, love is the key.

Let all things be done for the building up.

Whatever is spoken needs to edify, refresh, renew, revive, instruct, exhort, and encourage. The voice needs to have the heart of God released into that person, event, or situation. As it strengthens it'll empower all those involved to move in the direction of the spoken word. As God is also one who readjusts, realigns and reconnects, — any words spoken in correction also needs to build up love.

Let the prophets speak two or three.

The heart of the Lord always flows in unity. Plus, it's the Holy Spirit's way of a public confirmation, and when two or three do speak, it may be packaged a little different from one another but it will always knit together for that bigger picture, especially if it's a prophetic word about Ekklesia shifting gears and pressing forward, or needing to leave something behind, — and love is the key.

And let others weigh what has been said.

Prophets are subject to other prophets and if they have been plugged in with the local Ekklesia then they will have the ability to test one another for the sake of just wanting to be accountable. Being accountable gives the false prophetic a short leash! Anything prophesied needs to encourage, edify and build up, and it should be armed with the wisdom of God to give it the breakthrough it needs, — and remember once again, love is the key.

For you may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn.

In any gathering, prophets are to be that example of how prophetic ministry needs to function, knowing that the main reason for a people to gather is to reveal that the Bride of Christ can rise up together. A true prophet is a friend of God, a mature prophet is one that is not only a friend, but has the wisdom to know how to test any word to prevent the sheep from stampeding the pen, — and yes love is key.

3 - 7 The Counterfeit is Closer than We think

As we enter into the provision that the Lord has for us, there will also be a corresponding increase of the false prophetic, and false prophets. And based on what we saw last season, these ones have real power!

They have the ability to twist any prophetic language to the untrained. So we really need to plumb the prophetic up for these last days so that we do not become prey to the schemes and devices from the adversary.

We want to be moving in the direction that the Lord has for us! Prophetic language is a powerful force, for it is the voice of God! The adversary's plan has always been to steal that voice and create a counterfeit. Jesus said in Matthew 23:34, "Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes." He also said in Matthew 24:11, "And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many."

The False will Show Up in the Camp

Based on what He said, we can expect the false to show up in the camp. Because prophetic ministry is part of equipping the saints, you will find those who walk in the distortion of the prophetic, to be standing right in the very midst of our own camps, — that's a given!

What we have found in the past is that those strong horses within our own camps have taken the prophetic and punched it through their own cookie cutter molds, which always ends up being a distortion from the real deal, creating only casualties and division. When it's all about personal gain and ministry recognition, it will eventually go over the cliff, and when it does, the blame shifting kicks into gear as the spiritual body count starts to pile up.

3 - 8 Prophetic Ministry - Past Misalignments

Because of the prophetic ministry misalignment during the last season, what was meant to be a family planning moment ended up as a hunting season gone wild on a prophetic that went rogue.

The prophetic took some huge hits as it lost its covering, and because of that the adversary walked away with an incredible amount of property. Once again the thief was hard at work critically disarming the prophetic. Sure, there are some puffed up statistics out there, but the battle was lost and the people were scattered.

It was many years ago that John Paul Jackson made a visit to our city, and as he entered a house jammed with leaders, young and old, he began sharing how the Lord directed him to this area.

He said that what this city thought was the beginnings of another Azusa Street Revival, — was actually a spiritual black plague creating nothing but casualties from a war gone wrong creating a huge spiritual body count. Through presumption, the church engaged in a warfare that she was never called into. Somehow, prophetic ministry carved inroads through bad prophetic intel and through false prophetic anointing's.

Bad Prophetic Intel and False Prophetic Anointing's

The actual call was to enter into a time of prophetic worship, a time to reside in God's glory, to bathe in His presence as the Lord of the breakthrough would begin tearing down the city walls (like Jericho). But, instead, the church took to the frontlines with a whole different agenda. The prophetic somehow jumped strategies and the counterfeit now led them into a battle that this west coast city could never win.

Not only did the prophetic miss the actual call, but it started to flow in some unsanctified forms, meaning that the mixed waters and the strange fires were being justified through the distorted prophetic. All because leaders were not accountable to the rest of the gathering. There was no real teamwork, just an autocratic system gone bad.

The Last Movement lacked Genuine Love and Genuine Unity

There was no honor and the raising and releasing of young leaders was a rarity. The old were not connecting with the young and it was amazing how the young actually carried the accurate word of the Lord, but because of the disconnect, — it never made it to the frontlines. The wheels eventually fell off and a twenty-year prophetic season came to an end.

The bizarre thing is that during those twenty years some of the best teachings on the prophetic and prophetic ministry came to light. But somehow with all the amazing revelation coming forward, this model of prophetic ministry could not take this movement to the finish line!

Like prophetic birds on a wire, — we watched another movement come and go. It was a realization that in all these years we have never matured in the prophetic, not only locally but also nationally. We saw the most gifted people struggle with the maturing process. Over thirty years ago, we entered the initial season of releasing the prophetic, and because of the mishandling, it turned into a season of prophetic reformation only to watch 80% of the people scattered while clinging to some of the most amazing material regarding prophetic ministry.

We now find ourselves landing into a season that could very well be called prophetic reconciliation, or prophetic alignment. But tucked away, God was prepared a people, a remnant, a final gathering who will run with a revelation of Ekklesia and Prophetic Ministry as to its original design!

3 - 9 Prophetic Ministry under Ekklesia

Under Ekklesia, prophetic accountability is huge. As we are entering into the greatest season ever, the prophetic is even more critical, especially if a big part of where we are heading is going to be determined through prophetic revelation.

We may not all be called to operate as a prophet, but we are all called to play our part in a prophetic voice that was meant to paint a much bigger picture. For the times that we are entering, prophetic ministry will not only become a vital part of who we are, but it will be very critical to any gathering not only for its success, but also for its survival.

A dramatic increase in prophecy, dreams, and visions will be upon us in these latter days. This is, in fact, one of the great signs for the last days.

For the season that is before us, we really don't have the allotted time needed to walk out another fifteen to twenty year hit and miss prophetic season. This is not a learning curve option for us today. But those that have walked in some level of prophetic in the last season now need to step up their game for the rest of the team.

New Prophetic Season, New Prophetic Provision

Therefore, as we are entering into this new season we can expect prophetic revelation to increase. Those who try to avoid the issue of the prophetic, which is to do away with the Lord's provision in the directional rhema word during these latter days, will become increasingly subject to the enemy's schemes as he tries to manhandle the gathering as a whole once again.

The Lord has given us this provision so that we may accomplish His purposes. To reject any of the prophetic resources that He provides would be foolish on so many levels. The prophetic is not just good signage on the roadway that we find ourselves travelling on, — it is going to be the detailed revelation needed for the times ahead. It's more than a sign, — it is the needed provision that will allow us to interact and enter into the season ahead. And in most cases, if it is directional, the revelation could very well be time sensitive.

Entrusting the Prophetic under Ekklesia

This means taking all revelation and language that has been entrusted to them prophetically, and model it under Ekklesia.

What they have learned and understood now needs to function on an apostolic level which means allowing the prophetic to serve and function through the five-fold (Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist, Teacher), mentors releasing a model that can be both transferable and powerful as it demonstrates signs wonders and healings, leaving a trail of restoration behind as it moves deeper into the harvest field.

The revelation given will dictate how many of the five within the fold are needed to process what was prophetically spoken. When modeling this, it is safe to say that we will always end up on the side of Godly wisdom, followed by the needed restoration that has attached itself to the revelation, with God being glorified!

Fathers and Mothers in the Spirit need to Saddle Up

The Fathers and Mothers that God is about to release for this amazing season now need to model God's provision of prophetic revelation through His Ekklesia model! Doing this will give us a walking example of a lost model that is now being restored before us. It will take spiritual moms and dads, who are not familiar with this new model, some time in getting use to the functionality of this vehicle the way it is intended.

The power that is going to come out of this model of prophetic ministry will be on a whole different level. The first reaction these moms and dads might have is to default this movement through that old familiar cookie cutter, — but we need to ask Jesus every time we engage, what His thoughts are regarding His Father's Kingdom and what is the leading part of the Holy Spirit, — who is initiating the unfolding of it all? “ It's Your Kingdom that wants to land Lord. What part do you want us to play? Your Kingdom come! Your will be done! ”

Ekklesia is not just an Option

Walking out a prophetic ministry under Ekklesia is not just an option, it is essential if the team is going to have continuance, longevity and power! Through Ekklesia, having the five-fold as our operating system, we can now guard the entire flock. All can be protected! No sheep will be left behind, and since scripture indicates that prophetic revelation will be one of the most important issues during this latter season, we too, must give it the attention it deserves and handle it the way it needs to be handled.

We need to shift into a gear where we are protecting the group as a whole, for the whole Bride of Christ needs to arise as one. It's not about being right anymore with your prophetic revelation. When right is right and it all goes sideways leaving a trail of division, then it's not right.

3 - 10 Prophetic Ministry Conclusion

I have come to realize that prophetic ministry, prophetic revelation and prophetic intelligence always has a way of appearing when the Kingdom of heaven is being defined before us.

I realize that many, if not most, have no true understanding of how this heavenly Kingdom actually functions. The massive impact of this heavenly Kingdom was realized when Jesus came and clearly stated that He was here to take care of His Father's business and His Father's Kingdom.

If the adversary had known that the Father placed His Kingdom here on earth through His Son he would not have nailed Jesus to the cross, because the moment He did, the unleashing of that Kingdom intensified, — and for us, prophetic ministry became standard equipment!

When I first came into that spiritual Kingdom I was awestruck at the initial heavenly impact, but as time went by my perspective of this Kingdom changed from the rose garden that I once perceived it to be. The heavenly Kingdom here on earth started to look more like a battlefield.

I realized I had neglected to understand the corporate dynamics of this heavenly Kingdom. Like the animal kingdom, where there are certain parameters, so it is with the heavenly Kingdom! I realized that it was very important for me to grasp how this Kingdom relates to the present reality and how to recognize this invisible world within this present world.

Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done

John the Baptist said that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand, and then Jesus came and said that it was here. His Father's Kingdom had arrived with supernatural power to set people free. Prophetic ministry is here to stay! Processing prophetic revelation was now part of a new culture under a new covenant!

It is those first true recipients that ate and drank the message of the Kingdom that unleashed the apostolic government that was patterned after heaven, — a five-fold functioning in Ekklesia, backed with powerful revelations by the very one known as “The Spirit of Prophecy”.

In the time of Jesus, the world was awestruck with His new teaching of the Kingdom, along with its constant demonstrations of how that Kingdom functions. The gospel of this new Kingdom didn't include the rebuilding of a physical kingdom, but the unleashing of a heavenly Kingdom here on earth. “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.” — A Kingdom ministry unleashed by an apostolic prophetic ministry to take on the kingdom of darkness.

These kingdoms are in constant conflict, attacking and counter attacking, the Kingdom of light battling the kingdom of darkness. Most of the time I never knew how thick the battle really was. I would sense the possibility of neutral grazing zones but the truth about grazing came at a great personal cost.

For offensive and defensive reasons, it is imperative that we not only understand prophetic ministry as it is meant to be, but that we also learn to walk in the wisdom of the One who really is behind it all. Walking with His Ekklesia, functioning with His five-fold, moving with His prophetic model, will take us deep into the harvest field, for Jesus has plans for a glorious finish!

4 - Revelation

1 - Revelation 2 - Interpretation 3 - Presentation 4 - Restoration

4 - 1 Revelation Introduction

This is the FIRST STEP when Engaged with Prophetic Ministry. Tapping into prophetic revelation is really an encounter with the heart of God. We are tapping into the voice of God that is reflecting the things that are upon His heart.

With the activation of that voice, the whole process of prophetic revelation now kicks into gear, and with that voice comes the wisdom of God, — a wisdom that has the ability to build up, tear down, and release absolutely anything for His divine purposes.

When engaged, you are actually walking in the Spirit. You have entered the language of God, for it is He Himself that has cleared the way for that one-on-one communication, and that communication could take on many forms, — through dreams and visions, through the rhema word, or even by receiving a revelation through His creation. It is the language of God giving clarity towards a much bigger picture.

Our God Loves to Communicate

The amazing thing about that voice, that revelation, is that it always has a way of drawing us deeper into what He has in store for us along with the potential of knowing Him better as a person. Our God loves to communicate.

He loves to talk and He so wants to walk things out with us, not only individually but also corporately. This revelation has a way of bringing that needed light upon a path that seems so dark at times. It's that needed shift that brings alignment into the very thing that God is wanting to align within us or within those that we are ministering to, or to us a group.

Prophetic Revelation has a way of Moving us Forward

This revelation has the ability to knit the dynamics needed to move us forward individually and corporately. The reality is that there is so much depth to any Godly revelation that the responsibility is huge when processing it, for getting this initial step wrong, will only cause prophetic ministry to miss its mark completely, causing those to stray from its initial target. That's why it is important to get this foundational step right when entering prophetic language. This section called "Revelation" reveals how we need to bring all revelation into its proper alignment. This is so vital!

4 - 2 Jesus the Revealer of Prophetic Revelation

With the damage done to creation by sheer disobedience, and the debt that occurred through that disobedience, along with the continual usurping, the cost for restoration was brought to the forefront, — and so the price was paid. With redemption and restoration kicking into gear, that now needs to be communicated in our fractured world.

Prophetic Ministry has a way of bringing things back into alignment through the communication streams known as prophecy, the gift of prophecy, prophetic revelation, prophetic evangelism, prophetic healing, prophetic intercession, and even through the ministry of the prophet himself. Jesus excelled in all of these streams!

In Matthew, Jesus is the King revealed! In Mark, He is portrayed as the redeeming one! In Luke, He is pictured as the reconciler, and in John, He is proclaimed as a regenerator, — one who makes all things new! When you think of all those titles, — revealer, redeemer, reconciler and regenerator, these are key components that prophetic ministry needs to flow out of. For the prophetic to have the needed power and longevity for the season that we are about to enter into, we need to start aligning our prophetic language with these same qualities!

Jesus says in **John 14:6**, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man come unto the Father, but by me.” and in **Acts 4:12** Peter says, “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” So if there is only one way, then the basis of prophetic ministry really needs to be steering us not only individually but also corporately into that one way. He is not only the way, but also the chief cornerstone, foundation, and the builder.

Jesus brings Prophetic Ministry back into Alignment

So if He is The Model, then we need to be going in that very direction that has been laid out for us. Through Him a powerful sacrifice was made to clear the way. He cleared the way for us. When analyzing it all, it's easy to see that Jesus is the central figure in everything that we are about to enter into! If that be true, then everything He did was an example for us.

John 12:32 says. “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me.” Now if He is drawing people unto Himself then we just need to make ourselves available to His plans. Pulling out the ministry props is what will get us into trouble. We just need to be available and move in that one direction. Also, if He is the living Word that became flesh, and dwelt amongst us, who is now seated in heaven, then we, as family members, must become living conduits of that Word.

This means that if we engage in any position, particularly within the Five-Fold ministry, we will need to accept the tremendous responsibility when handling and landing what we are called to do. When delivered, our service to others needs to bear fruit. It needs to be presented like apples of gold in settings of silver. **Proverbs 25:11**

Most importantly, if it is undertaken on behalf of the King, it needs to have that redeeming quality that He Himself walks in, never forgetting that any redemption package needs to be fully armed with love, — an unconditional love that is!

4 - 3 **Prophetic Revelation under Jesus**

The key purpose for those walking in prophetic language is to reveal the glorious wonders of Jesus, His character and the things that are upon His Father's heart.

Acts 2:17-18

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

1 Corinthians 14:31, 1 Corinthians 4:1

“ For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted. Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.”

Prophecy is a language. It's the rhema of God, the spoken word of God through His vessels that He has chosen. It includes whatever God desires to say about the past, present, and future.

For us today, individually or corporately, it will confirm, in most cases, the very thing that He has already planted within us. It could speak of a season that we are about to enter with the ability to define us even more as we move forward.

It could speak of a transition, — something we may need to leave behind, while containing the lessons learned, and while giving revelation of who we are in Him, defining our identity and our purpose.

It could speak of our need to function as a people as He moves us forward. A cloud by day, a fire by night, — that's the potential power behind the prophetic as His presence rends the air before us. He is the way and He will make a way for us through prophetic ministry.

Spirit of Prophecy Fuels the Ministry of Jesus

The key purpose of both the prophet and those walking in prophetic language is to reveal the glorious wonders of Jesus, — God manifested in the flesh and how He came to serve! So if the “Spirit of Prophecy” is a continuation of His serving, how much more should the prophetic language that we are about to enter into reflect that model.

This amazing Jesus whom I've come to know has over 200 titles attached to His name, and it's growing. This is an astonishing resume where a lot of those titles have a redemptive quality to them, redemption being key to why He came in the first place! The other amazing quality, besides having all those titles, is how scripture clearly defines the fact that “The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy”. **Revelation 19:10**

Therefore it would seem that when we step into prophetic ministry, the prophetic expression of ministry should have a redeeming component to it! It should be pointing to some level of restoration!

The days of the fish bonker where we are lining everyone up has very little place in today's dispensation when it comes to steering the sheep into those greener pastures! The original model was designed so that the 12 walk in one accord, being united, serving one another, and building each other up. It is in these surroundings that we get to see the Kingdom of God land with the creativeness that it so desires.

Spirit of Prophecy Expresses The Kingdom

So when walking out prophetic revelation as it is intended, it's amazing how the Kingdom expresses itself with the redeeming qualities that refresh, revive, restore, renew and release for that needed restoration, — for it always was about restoring the captives and setting them free, — the very things that we need to contend for today!

So for us today, what does a prophetic ministry look like under Ekklesia? There is so much to write when it comes to putting a basic manual together, but we have kept it simple and have decided to focus on two main points, — The Spirit of Jesus, and the Spirit of Prophecy! Merge the two together and you will end up with a powerful force that is second to none! Powerful towards the broken hearted, powerful towards the lost, and powerful towards those who are stumbling along the way!

The Spirit of Jesus and The Spirit of Prophecy

Jesus said, “ The words that I have spoken to you are Spirit and are life ” **John 6:63**, and those who walk in prophetic revelation will come to know of the power behind that Spirit and life! Those who hear His voice will be joined to the greatest power in the universe, for in one word creation was formed, and for us, those words upon our lips become a conduit for the greatest power in the universe. The more we understand spiritually about prophetic revelation, the more closely joined we become to the Word Himself, the more precious and powerful our words become.

The more we value these words, the more careful we will be when handling it, — becoming even more careful as we grow in our awakening of its amazing power. The more careful we are, the more power our Lord can entrust us with as He sends us deeper into prophetic ministry.

If we do all this, as we walk out this present season, prophetic revelation will demonstrate its power far beyond what we could ever think or ever imagine! “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him”. **1st Corinthians 2:9** The latter will be greater than the former.

4 - 4 Prophetic Revelation under Ekklesia

Under Ekklesia, prophetic accountability is huge. As we are entering into the greatest season ever, the prophetic will be even more critical, especially if a big part of where we are heading is going to be determined through prophetic revelation. We may not all be called to operate as a prophet, but we are all called to play our part in a prophetic voice that was meant to paint a much bigger picture. For the times that we are entering, prophetic ministry will not only become a vital part of who we are, but it will be critical to any gathering for its success, and for its survival.

Spirit of Prophecy is all part of the Ekklesia DNA

A dramatic increase in prophecy, dreams, and visions will be upon us in these latter days. This is, in fact, one of the great signs for the last days. Therefore, as we are entering into this new season we can expect prophetic revelation to increase. Those who try to avoid the issue of the prophetic, which is to do away with the Lord’s provision in the directional rhema word during these latter days, will become increasingly subject to the enemy’s schemes as he tries to manhandle the gathering as a whole once again.

The Lord has given us this provision so that we may accomplish His purposes. To reject any of the prophetic resources that He provides would be foolish on so many levels. The prophetic is not just good signage on the roadway that we find ourselves travelling on, — it is going to be the detailed revelation needed for the times ahead. It's more than a sign, it is the needed provision that will allow us to interact and enter into the season ahead. And in most cases, if it is directional, — the revelation could very well be time sensitive.

Walking in Prophetic Ministry is not an Option

For the season that is before us, we really don't have the allotted time needed to walk out another fifteen to twenty year "hit and miss" prophetic season. This is not a learning curve option for us today. But those that have walked in some level of prophetic in the last season now need to step up their game for the rest of the team. This means taking all revelation and language that has been entrusted to them prophetically, and modeling it under Ekklesia.

This walking out of prophetic ministry under Ekklesia is not an option, it is essential if the team is going to have continuance, longevity and power! Through Ekklesia, having the five-fold as our operating system, we can now guard the entire flock. All can be protected!

No Sheep left behind, — It's all Teamwork

And since scripture indicates that prophetic revelation will be one of the most important issues during this latter season, we, too, must give it the attention it deserves and handle it the way it needs to be handled! We need to shift into a gear where we are protecting the group as a whole, for the whole Bride of Christ needs to arise as one. It's not about being right anymore with your prophetic revelation. When right is right and it all goes sideways leaving a trail of division, then it's not right.

What they have learned and understood now needs to function in an apostolic team level which means allowing the prophetic to serve and function through the five-fold team (apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, teacher), mentors releasing a model that can be both transferable and powerful as it demonstrates signs wonders and healings, leaving a trail of restoration behind as it moves deeper into the harvest field.

The revelation given will dictate how many of the five within the five-fold are needed to process what was prophetically spoken. When modeling this, it is safe to say that we will always end up on the side of Godly wisdom, followed by the needed restoration that has attached itself to the revelation, with God being glorified!

4 - 5 The Counterfeit and the False Prophetic

As I mentioned before, we are entering an important season of God's provision and an increase of the false prophetic. False prophets will arise at the forefront and based on the last season that we just came out of, — these ones have real power. Power to deceive and power to distort the voice of God. They have the ability to twist any prophetic language to the untrained.

Plumbing the Prophetic on that Sure Foundation

We really need to plumb the prophetic up for these last days so that all is protected. We do not want to become prey to the schemes and devices from the adversary. We want to be moving in the direction that the Lord has for us! Prophetic language is a powerful force, for it is the voice of God! The adversary's plan has always been to steal that voice and create a counterfeit. We need to embrace discernment!

The Lord Jesus said in **Matthew 23:34**, “ Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes.” He also said in **Matthew 24:11**, “And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.”

Based on what He said, we can expect the false to show up in the camp. Because prophetic ministry is part of equipping the saints, you will find those who walk in the distortion of the prophetic standing right in our midst, — that’s a given!

When ministry is all about personal gain and recognition, along with a ton of selfies, it will eventually take all those involved over the cliff. And when it does, blame shifting kicks into gear as the spiritual body count piles up due to lack of accountability.

4 - 6 The Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy Revelation 19:10

All true prophecy is His testimony. It comes from Him and draws us to Him. He has truly manifested Himself to us in so many different ways. He is a Lion, and He is also a Lamb. He came as the Prince of Peace. He is the Rock, the Alpha and Omega, the Good Shepherd, the Bright and Morning Star, and Door of the Sheep. He is a Greater than Solomon, the Unspotted Lamb, the True Light, the Word of God, the Vanquisher, the Wisdom of God, and Wonderful Counselor.

He’s the King of the Jews, the King of Israel, the King of Righteousness, the King of the Ages, the King of Heaven, the King of Glory, the King of Kings, and He is the Lord of Lords, and the list goes on and on, — over 200 to be exact.

He supplies strength for the weak, He guards and guides. He heals the sick, cleanses the lepers, forgives sinners, discharges debtors, delivers the captives, defends the feeble, blesses the young, serves the unfortunate, regards the aged, rewards the diligent, and beautifies the meek. He is the key of knowledge, the wellspring of wisdom, the doorway of deliverance, the pathway of peace, the roadway of righteousness, the highway of holiness, and the gateway of glory, and yet He said that He came to bring a sword.

To know Him and all that He truly represents will help in the processing of any prophetic revelation that may come our way for He is the template and He is the standard when it comes to prophecy. He truly is the Spirit of Prophecy.

4 - 7 Examples of Revelation at Work

A “Revelation” where the Natural spoke on the Supernatural in a Personal Level The Prophetic Journey

“ In spite of these off-the-wall experiences, I’m really no different than any other guy who’s trying to raise a family, pay his bills, and keep the wheels of commerce going, — except I find myself continually pulled between life’s struggles and the processing of a prophetic voice that heaven grafted into my life.”

“ My life has been walking from storm to storm, surviving one only to find myself launched into another. It has been tough to see the end of the tunnel, and this day added to what became another long arduous week. Mentally challenged by the overwhelming circumstances in family and finances, I again felt pressed to the max. I tried so hard to make it work, only to come short again.”

“ Caught up in emotion, I drove down the road, not knowing where I was going, but thinking that perhaps if I drove fast enough the weight of the world might drop off my shoulders. I looked up and asked if it was possible to smile in the midst of the surrounding storms.”

“As I continued down the road, I ended up driving right into an actual storm. Darkness fell all around me. Then out of the darkness beams of light broke through the clouds and landed around my car. A rainbow appeared, arching from one side of the road to the other, and the rays of sunbeams glistened upon every single raindrop that was falling. The twinkling of raindrops upon that dark backdrop looked like diamonds as they were hitting my windshield. What an amazing sight! ”

“As I drove through the rainbow with diamonds falling all around me, I had to smile. Right then I looked up realizing just how creative heaven can get when answering prayer. God, you are amazing.”

A “Revelation” where a Vision spoke of a Spiritual Alignment on a Corporate Level The Prophetic Journey

“ In a vision there were four of us in a circle. A small fiery ball of golden yellow bright light appeared beside the head of the one in front of me. I saw the light enter the left temple and as it passed through the center of his head and behind his eyes, an amazing golden light blazed through his eyes.”

“ Then it slowly exited the right temple and went into the left temple of the next person. His eyes also lit up with that golden light. When it entered my left temple and moved behind my eyes everything I viewed had a bright golden hue to it. Then it left my right temple. When I woke up I could still feel the affects of that bright golden light burning upon the back of my eyeballs. All day I felt that sensation behind my eyes.”

“ When I prayed about the golden light, — this was heavens response, ‘And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple for He is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap. He will purify the sons and purge them as gold and silver, and when tested they shall come forth as gold.’ I realized the dream represented a people whom heaven plans to establish, a people refined to the point where they will not misrepresent or misinterpret the voice of the Lord.”

4 - 8 Revelation Conclusion

It's amazing what I have discovered about this one called Jesus. First of all the word "massive" is probably too small to describe Him. The power behind that name and the revelation of His Fathers Kingdom is impressive. Everything starts with Him and it will all end with Him, and when it comes to prophetic ministry it too needs to all line up with Him, His character, and His nature.

He is the mystery of the invisible God that has become visible. That was a stunning revelation to me, — God manifested in the flesh. He is creator, revealer, savior and mediator, and I've seen him in action. That I cannot deny! He is omnipotent and omnipresent; He really is the ultimate King of kings. I have found that outside of Jesus, there is no wider, deeper, greater, broader, higher dimension known. When I spoke out His name to the dark influences that have come against me, it was like pulling out a 44 magnum in the Spirit. There is amazing authority in that name.

In heaven He is recognized as the undisputed heavyweight, He is the highest ranking official and the top administrator in heaven. He is the Spirit of Prophecy, there is no other. His words are powerful, and the prophetic ministry that He has demonstrated needs to be part of our tool crib. He is the revealer and the standard for revelation that we need to abide in!

5 - Interpretation

1 - Revelation **2 - Interpretation** 3 - Presentation 4 - Restoration

5 - 1 Interpretation Introduction

**This SECOND STEP helps us understanding the intentions of God's heart.
It has a way of weaponizing the revelation for maximum results.**

All interpretation needs to come into proper alignment with an understanding of what it is that God is actually doing in our midst.

As the wisdom of God is revealed through the proper interpretation, there is now a knowing of what God is up too. This section reveals how to bring interpretation into its proper alignment and what the qualifiers are for that proper interpretation, because out of those qualifiers, choice words will start to develop as the language of God begins to consume your spirit, as your heart beats with the revelation that is upon His heart, translating heaven's language into something that we can communicate in our language.

“As we become more and more familiar with how the Lord speaks to us personally in the Spirit, the interpretation will start to flow more easily as we become familiar with the prophetic language of God. Until then, it can always be a bit of a process.”

This is where pressing into the heart of God is needed for that interpretation, and that will include the needed intercession for that interpretation.

5 - 2 Interpretation and True Character

Prophecy, Prophetic Revelation, Gifts of Prophecy and the Office of a Prophet are all access points for Prophetic Language. It really is the doorway that reveals the heart of God's intentions and strategies, — a language that is not only foretelling, but also reveals strategies, secrets, and the person Jesus himself (directly or indirectly). Why?

Well first of all Jesus is not only the doorway, but also the Chief Cornerstone. As a matter of fact He is the whole building where all involved know Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. He is a manifestation of the Father manifesting His Father's business, not only in Word, but also Spiritually by the unleashing of His Father's Kingdom, — all fuelled by Prophetic Ministry.

Interpretation is the Road Map towards Restoration

He is defined in scripture as “ The Spirit of Prophecy ”. So if He is the total and complete package when it comes to prophecy then any prophecy today should be a continuation of that “ Spirit of Prophecy ” and it should automatically line up with what the Father is building in the nature of Jesus, — to restore what was lost and take back what was stolen. All interpretation needs to be mapped out with true character of Jesus.

If everything Jesus did represented His Father, and everything that the Father established was for the hidden mystery of Jesus to be revealed, then any prophetic language and the interpretation of it needs to follow the same spiritual flow. Our safeguard is to default any prophetic language upon the Chief Cornerstone. For the chances of any revelation coming forward with the proper interpretation, it would be wise to plumb line it upon the cornerstone that heaven has provided for us.

5 - 3 Interpretation comes out of Unity

Prophetic Ministry, Ekklesia, and the Five-Fold all need to flow in unity. Interpretation plays a vital part in knitting it all together. Proper interpretation of any revelation is key when advancing with the Fathers business. It is the plum line for moving forward.

Ephesians 4:11-13

“And He gave some as Apostles, and some as Prophets, and some as Evangelists, and some as Pastors and Teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

Jesus plans to build and release His Ekklesia, where we all flow together in unity. With Ekklesia now coming to the forefront, the keys of the Kingdom will now have the ability to bind and loosen whatsoever is needed to cause extreme movement. In other words, If I had to guess, based on what Jesus released while travelling for three years from place to place, based on all that was witnessed, based on all that was being testified, and based on all the signs and wonders that followed, Jesus was demonstrating a gathering, a movement, a Kingdom government, with Kingdom authority, to set captives free and release the very things that are upon His Father's heart.

Interpretation and Unity reap amazing Kingdom rewards

All that Jesus modeled was not in a static form but more of a fluid form. This Kingdom, this house, this authority was totally mobile, and because it was designed to be far reaching, He made it highly transferable. His intent was that we too would walk in the very model that He has laid out. Proper interpretation along with the needed unity will steer the revelation in a dynamic direction. It will cause us to flow deep into the heart of our Heavenly Father where we are truly taking care of His business.

5 - 4 Let All Things be done Decently

1st Corinthians 14:26-40

“ How is it then, brethren? **When ye come together**, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. **Let all things be done for the building up.** If any man speaks in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter let him keep silence in the Ekklesia; and let him speak to himself, and to God. Let the prophets speak two or three, and let others weigh what has been said. If any thing be revealed to another that is seated by, let the first hold his peace. For you 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, as in all the gatherings of the saints. . . Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.”

5 - 5 Dream Interpretation

Positioning ourselves for dreams, visions, and the rhema word of God

These are basic guidelines that have worked for me; it's not a formula. But in doing this, eventually your personal time with Holy Spirit will develop into something absolutely beautiful.

- 1.) **First of all you need to be a lover of Jesus!** He's the one who made it all happen!
- 2.) **The line of communication needs to be opened!** As you plug in, your dialogue, your communication, — will cause a response from the Lord Himself. Why? Because He loves to communicate!
- 3.) **If you speak in tongues,** it would be good to spend at least a half hour to an hour a day praying in tongues!

- 4.) **If you don't speak in tongues**, then it would be good to pray for five minutes and listen for five minutes and do this for about a half hour to an hour a day. It is those loud daily voices that will eventually fall to the back of the pack, while that still small voice of the Lord starts to make its way to the front of the pack.
- 5.) **And the most obvious, you need to be reading His word.** And I would put the emphasis on the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John including the book of Acts) and then drift into the Old.
- 6.) **And finally, go for those walks!** God loves to go for walks. Ask Adam when you eventually meet up with him, and maybe even Enoch about those amazing walks they had! And when you're going for those walks, — don't be the one doing all the talking!

A Personal Relationship will Cultivate that Intimate Interpretation

Because we have a personal God, our relationship and the language in that relationship will be defined more and more with each passing day. If that is true, then any prophetic language that comes out of that would have a personal touch to it. That would mean any dreams, visions, and the rhema word of God coming our way will not always have that cookie cutter interpretation.

Here's an example of what I am talking about! A “ black dog ”, to most people, would be interpreted as some form of a demonic presence, a distraction; but it could also be interpreted as a “ friendly unbeliever ”. So when your unbelieving cousin, who you want nothing to do with, shows up the next day, you might miss his or her day of divine visitation, as you are totally blinded to the fact that God has sent him or her your way.

Another example, “A fish” being interpreted as the souls of men. But to the one who was swallowed by a whale, it could mean something completely different. It could be a warning of a need to start being obedient! The first interpretation has a divine call to be that fisher of men, a call to walk in the ministry of an evangelist, while the second one has a clear warning about disobedience.

This language can only be developed as we walk with the Holy Spirit who is revealing Jesus in our midst. Everything lines up with Jesus, as does our personal walk with Him, and any language coming out of those walks are developed as we spend that one on one time with Him. As He speaks to us personally more and more, a personal language is uniquely carved out creating an amazing relationship with God.

Basic Dream and Vision Interpretation

But for the sake of basic interpretation, here are some cookie cutter examples to help you get started.

Numbers

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 4 – Rule and reign | 5 – Grace | 6 – Man |
| 7 – Completion | 8 – New Beginnings | 9 – Finalized |
| 12 – Government | 14 – Double Anointing | 15 – Mercy |

Places

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Window – Vision | House – Family |
| Vehicle – Ministry | Field – Harvest ministry |
| Tent – Meeting | High Rise – Spiritual perspective |
| School – Training | Garden – Place of growth |
| Basement – Hidden issues | Kitchen – Spiritual preparation |
| Farm – Provision | Stadium – Large impact |

Others

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wind – Holy Spirit | Rain – Blessing |
| Coat – Mantle | Storm – Trouble |
| Bride – Ekklesia | Wine – Spirit of God |
| Water – Refreshing | Grapes – Fruitfulness |
| Bread – Word of God | Bicycle – Personal ministry |
| Chariot – Spiritual encounter | |
| Arrow – Accusation | Ring – Authority |
| Shoes – Depends on shoes | Bus – Ekklesia or ministry |

Others continued

Trees – Leadership **Flying** – Moving in the Spirit
Pregnant – God birthing, a preparation, a bringing forth
Paralyzed Body Part – Spiritual hindrance, demonic attack
Butterfly – Transformation **Tiger** – Powerful Ministry
Prisoner – Lost person **Train** – Movement of God
Eagle – Prophetic calling **Bear** – Boundaries

5 - 6 Examples of Interpretation

First Example

An “Interpretation” where the Natural spoke of a Spiritual dynamic on a Corporate Level The Prophetic Journey

Recently I found myself going through more of life's crushing circumstances. The roadway seemed to be getting smaller and smaller. One day as I was walking on a pebbled roadway near our horse ranch, heaven started to speak about a certain narrow road that has been laid for all of us, a road established with lives that have been broken and only through brokenness did they qualify to be positioned on this roadway. A narrow humble road founded by heaven and paved by those who have laid down their lives from serving self to serving others. Those lives have allowed the grinding process of circumstances to mold true character, a refining process of character endorsed from heaven itself.

As I continued to walk, I was overwhelmed again and again by all who have laid down their lives so that I could proceed on this road today. Past generations of chosen people who have paved the road for this present generation. Those very lives that have suffered for heaven's sake are the same lives that even now look down as they cheer while seeing the baton passed for the continuance of the things of heaven here on earth.

As I stopped and continued to look down upon that road, my heart pounded with the awesome revelation of it all. I was then hit with an overwhelming sense of responsibility, — a sense of allowing the process to have its finished work in my life. At a time when some of the most amazing things are about to be released from heaven, I felt a need to stay close to this roadway, for heaven embraces the humble and brokenhearted and will not turn its face from those who have chosen to walk this path. I was humbled by the fact that each pebble in that road represented a life that was willing to lay itself down in order to pave the way so that I and others could walk on this roadway.

Second Example

An “Interpretation” where a Vision spoke of a Spiritual dynamic on a Corporate Level The Prophetic Journey

As I laid back on my couch a prophetic movie started to play through my head. What I saw was a big white box and in it were white box leaders. They were discussing their writings and trying to iron out their up-and-coming speeches based on their important new findings. Outside the white box the winds were blowing hard.

I then saw a person walking against the raging wind. The wind was spraying him with all kinds of dirt and mud. Prior to the winds picking up he looked somewhat clean, but now in the midst of the storm he looked a little tattered. He made his way to the white box for cover and walked in looking somewhat beat up. The white box leaders sat him down and presented their latest speeches and writings. Upon finishing their presentation they sent him on his way. Days later he came back to the white box looking even more weathered and dirty because the winds were still blowing all around.

Those inside the white box decided to sit him down again. This time they decided to take him through a counseling session and show him more of their writings. His time was up and once again he found himself outside the white box facing the winds.

As he stood there leaning into the winds, he reached into his coat and tucked close to his heart he pulled out an amazing jewel. The light from that treasured jewel beamed out from his coat as he slowly slid it out. Partway out he looked upon his hidden treasure and then slid it back into his coat close to his heart. I noticed there was others like him and when they huddled they would share of their great treasures. As they stood against the wind, I looked over and saw leaders from the white box once again discussing their latest finds and organizing the next main event. Off they went to put their latest speeches and writings together. When the vision ended this was the interpretation that heaven gave me.

The white box represented a structure that was initially built to help people; for the real treasure was in the people. The white box leaders were always discovering bits of treasure, while those outside also had real treasure hidden in their hearts. They walked with the pearl of great price. If those white box leaders had only tapped into the hearts of those outside the box they would have discovered the greatest treasure of all. But the white box leaders were more interested in the things they valued. The primary value of the white box when it was initially created was to value people, to help them along their way, but somehow things got all sidetracked. The white box is a picture of something propped up illuminating a clean image, when in fact it has missed the mark in so many ways. Now with its carved out image it's become somewhat dysfunctional.

Heaven has always been known to deposit its heavenly treasures in the hearts of people, and those who have received those heavenly deposits are usually not the obvious ones. We need to spend the time to find the hidden treasure that heaven has deposited upon those who also belong to the Lord, those who also carry the voice of the Lord, which means putting our own agendas aside at times.

6 - Presentation

1 - Revelation 2 - Interpretation **3 - Presentation** 4 - Restoration

6 - 1 Presentation Introduction

This THIRD STEP of “Presentation” is where delivery takes place. It is the activation of the “Revelation”.

Presentation is when delivery of what has been interpreted steps into action. But not all revelation that has gone through the interpretation process is a revelation that needs to be presented publicly.

What I have experienced in the past thirty years is that 80% or more of what has been prophetically revealed has really been a call for prayer and intercession, — strategic prayers needed for a breakthrough that God has placed on the radar. Because of that, the revelation and the interpretation may never make it to the next level for a public hearing. That prayer may be directed at an individual, or for a gathering, but it was strictly designed for intercession.

Something that was on the heart of God, has now been placed upon our hearts, — a prayer that Heaven has entrusted us with for that special someone, or that special something, where, as we press in, the proclamation that comes out of that intercession, will have the potential to move both heaven and earth.

Now when it comes to the interpretation of that prophetic revelation being channeled into the presentation level, the activation of those choice words usually comes with timing.

Proper timing along with those choice words is vital for any public presentation to have its way. With the two lining up, the power of God will now take care of the task that is at hand, for proper presentation will always create that needed shift in the Spirit, — a shift that will manifest both in the natural and in the supernatural. This section will reveal how presentation needs to come into its proper alignment.

6 - 2 The Commandment & The Commission

Love first, then Prophetic Ministry

Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

“ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

The Great Commandment

Matthew 22: 37-40

Jesus declared, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

God created us for love, for relationship, for community. It is in this context that we know God and He knows us. And it is from this place of knowing that we are to embark on the Great Commission. Based on Jesus’ teaching and example, — should we be executing the Great Commission? or obeying the Great Commandment? I would think that if we are pressing into the Great Commandment, we would automatically be entering into the Great Commission. But if we focus on trying to execute the Great Commission without pursuing the Great Commandment we will lose our true identity entering into a performance-based gospel, which will eventually lead us into the false prophetic.

6 - 3 Love, — then Prophetic Ministry

Jesus has clearly defined that He is all about love, that His Ekklesia is all about love, and that the five-fold functioning as a team is all about walking in that love, — and so should Prophetic Ministry.

When it comes to prophetic ministry, prophetic revelation and the workings of any prophetic giftings, or the prophet making his stand, it should all be presented in love.

“Any presentation should arm itself with enough love to obtain restoration, with the manifest presence of His redeeming love, coming with all the evidence that the Kingdom of God has actually landed.”

While Jesus walked in our midst, hearing the Father’s voice, doing what the Father was doing, — He clearly was demonstrating a model of what prophetic ministry needs to look like.

“Since He is our example of hearing that voice, being that voice, and walking out that voice, then it is very clear that we need to step into that model that He has prepared.”

Known as “The Spirit of Prophecy”, Jesus prays over those to whom He has given authority, and He states that He will now be glorified through those that are His. We who have been authorized on His behalf now carry the same responsibility to be that presenter of His voice.

That baton has been passed to us through prophetic ministry. To be that voice could be a bit of a process, but that all depends on the calling and the personality of the one being called.

6 - 4 Desert Training

The Desert Experience

The Prophetic Journey

I really look at myself as an ordinary guy having an extraordinary adventure. But this adventure of shaping the prophetic voice has driven me into two major desert experiences. What I personally found out about these two deserts is that they are needed to shape the prophetic voice. If the prophetic voice in me is to lead, then the molding process for true leadership had to take me into the desert. But the toughest part about my desert experience was that those who were close to me also felt the heat of the desert, and that made the tough times even tougher.

I realized that as I went from one desert experience to the next, there were no short cuts. In my first desert experience, I found that the prophetic words I spoke out had a way of heating up the environment all around me. This speaking out of what was on the heart of heaven led me to a place of rejection, isolation and solitude. This was my place of personal humiliation. I found out later that this was an important part of the process designed to carve out a character in me that would help me later to endure almost anything. It became that quiet place of communion where I found the invitation to come apart, — apart from myself, my fears, my phobias, and any false identities that would want to lead me away from all that heaven has for me. What I found was that this hot desert place became that very place of intimacy with the very One who rules heaven, — if I would allow it. It became a place of major scrubbing, sculpturing and polishing, and this was not by any means a quick process.

It was a long grinding process, but after enduring the process I found myself entering my next desert experience. This next desert place was a place of personal suffering causing compassion for others that I never really had before, — a place where I would learn to go the extra mile for others. It's that place where I realized that I need others

around me for heaven's purposes and not just for my own. It was at these times of great need that I found others with even greater need supplying my needs. As they supplied my needs, heaven supplied their needs. During those tough times it was humbling when receiving from their scraps. But as heaven came through for them, they realized that the heaven that surrounds me is very real, and so they began to look towards the God of that heaven, and not long after, heaven started to crash into their lives.

I have found during these desert times that the person who resides in that quiet place alone with his God is going to have the heart of his God in whatever message he decides to speak. And with those very times of intimacy comes power.

6 - 5 The Gift of Prophecy and The Prophet

A prophet's message is like setting up a beachhead, while prophetic revelation and the gift of prophecy has a way of bringing an alignment to those who are moving forward, personally and corporately. With the counsel of God showing up, the group now plunges deeper into the heart of God revealing His intentions, both corporately and personally.

Gift of Prophecy

Is Moving in Prophecy for Everyone?

Hebrews 3:13

Prophecy is probably the most common gift and is given to most for the purpose of edifying other believers. Whether it's on a huge level or not, it can encourage. We are instructed to encourage one another daily, with prophecy being that needed gift to help encourage those around us.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.”

1 Corinthians 14:5

“I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more to prophesy.” Similar to tongues, the gift of prophecy can be sought by all and is frequently a sign of being filled with the Spirit.

Acts 19:6

“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

1 Corinthians 14:30-31

“All are permitted to prophecy, so long as they are interconnected and accountable to those that they have surrounded themselves with.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies . . . hold fast what is good.”

1 Corinthians 14:4

“A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire gathering.”

1 Corinthians 12:7 1 Corinthians 12:11

“ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. ” Not everyone receives the same gift, since these are distributed by the Holy Spirit . . . “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”, to effectively build one another up in Ekklesia.

The Prophet

Who are the Prophets? Who calls them out?

As the prophet's message is like setting up a beachhead, the training to become that beachhead is a bit of a process because there's a whole issue of integrity that needs to be defined, or in some cases redefined. A typical prophet going through the maturing process has to deal with his or her integrity. Walking with those blurred lines will always get us in trouble, and has the potential to steer those around us into troubled waters!

“ For a Prophet, there are three things that the Holy Spirit will refine as He sculptures their prophetic lives. One is the language we use, and how that language needs to be a voice that truly represents heaven! Another is the character that is needed to exemplify a model that others should follow! The last one is about the glory. Is God, who is the driving force behind it all, getting the recognition that He deserves? Who is the voice really representing? That's important! ”

Lack of integrity in a prophet will create a corporate black hole, followed by an ongoing spiritual body count as those in the gathering walk over the cliff with him. That is why the making of a prophet has always been a bit of a process. That process all depends on one's calling and personality, level of humility and integrity, and a willingness to submit to God who is using this process to define His character in us. I know prophets who have been in the molding process for over 20 years.

God is faithful and He will get us all through the process for He is establishing a good work in us! At the end we will become that insignia ring that He has designed us to be when stamping out prophetic language and authority.

The Call

2 Peter 1:19-21

“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of the prophet, but men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Ephesians 4:11

“And he gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

The Call to be a Prophet

The calling to be a prophet is very different from operating in the gift of prophecy, as the anointing and authority is also very different. The call, like the gift of prophecy, is given by the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit.

Prophets are armed with being the eyes and ears for any gathering - “let those who have ears hear what the Spirit is saying” The higher the prophetic revelation received by the prophet, the greater the impact that revelation will have as it all starts to unfold. God is still speaking to us today, and it would greatly benefit us to try and start hearing what the Spirit is saying through the prophets He gives us today.

Prophets are builders as they assist with building up through direction, encouragement and vision, similar to Haggai and Zechariah. Prophets help when laying down a foundation, as they train and teach others about prophetic ministry.

“ Prophets, as well as prophetic gifts, need to be handled through teamwork where there is accountability. With that in place, both the prophets and the body can now mature together. If we are not careful to cultivate that place of accountability, it will cost us dearly down the road.”

Maturing prophets must be willing to receive feedback. Prophecy needs to be weighed and tested, and the whole process needs to be done in a fitting way that allows all involved to mature.

Prophecy is a sign of God’s approval and a blessing upon a gathering, showing that God is actively present. A heightened sense and awareness of His presence is a clear sign to an unbeliever that God is really amongst us.

6 - 6 An Example of an actual Presentation

A “Presentation” in the Natural brought “Restoration” in the Spiritual The Prophetic Journey

Two men were doing their grocery shopping when they turned into the next aisle and saw a young lady kneeling down to grab something from the lower shelf. As they walked towards her, both men were instantly downloaded with a prophetic revelation about the young lady. Obviously God wants to connect with her.

The first gentleman received a revelation, and the interpretation of that was of a lady who once had a personal walk with Jesus and has now given her life over to prostitution and that she now needs to repent.

The second gentleman also received a revelation, and the interpretation of that was of a lady who has left her first love and who has been going down the wrong path ever since. She walked away from that first love and God wants to restore that.

As these men continued to walk down the aisle, the second gentleman knelt down beside her and said, “I came around the corner and the Spirit of God hit me as you reached for something on the shelf. I felt the heart of God towards you and He clearly wants you to know that He has always loved you, and that He has never left you, and that He is only a heartbeat away.” Tears started coming down the young lady’s face as she started to weep upon that grocery store floor. As she wept, these men knew that restoration has just taken place.

I realized, when hearing about these two men that packaging the interpretation for that proper presentation is vital. The wrong interpretation would never have created the heavenly results that landed upon that floor. As a result of the revelation, interpretation and presentation all lining up, restoration kicked into gear and she is now back with her first love!

6 - 7 Prophetic Presentation

Packaging the Word before the Actual Delivery

The shaping of the prophetic voice has a lot to do with the packaging of the word before the actual delivery takes place. A lot of that involves making sure those personal issues — hurts, resentments, bitterness and a many other possibilities do not end up in the package. If there is a lot of that in the package then there's a good chance that the package is coming from strange origins. Whatever that origin is it's not good and it will give the package a bit of a distortion, especially when the package looks like it's trying to straighten out everybody's problems. When it's going in that direction it's time to rethink the package before doing any delivery.

What's happening is that the package is now carrying a lot of weird stuff and that distortion is now mixed in with the heart of heaven. When delivering that weird stuff — it usually gets ugly! People start to go into their closets searching for that Louisville slugger. The amalgamation of all that additional stuff has a way of stirring up the pot when we don't need to stir up the pot any more than what heaven plans to stir up. Heaven has a way of gripping the heart. Weird stuff not dealt with brings nothing but trouble! And having stirred up my share of trouble, I've learned that packaging the prophetic is important and that may take a bit of a learning curve.

Counterfeit packages are out there, and I've seen my share of cowboys shooting off their prophetic guns. But this only happens when identity of being that prophetic voice takes precedence over that relationship with God and relationship with people. Strutting around with that prophetic badge will get us into all kinds of trouble. A true prophetic voice really comes out of relationship. Anything outside of relationship means that the package should be inspected. Once inspected, and it shows all the signs of being a carrier of weird stuff, that's when it's time to strip it down and repackage it.

6 - 8 Presentation Conclusion

Are We Clones? If not, — then how does this Presentation Thing Work?

The Boyz The Prophetic Journey

God has made us unique, and it is that uniqueness that He wants in our walk with Him. He is not looking for clones, and He does not want to alter our personalities, nor does He want to process people through some mold.

Sure He's probably looking to trash a few things in our personal lives, but what He's really searching for are those individual personalities who are willing to work it out, talk it out and walk it out. When I think of the original twelve, I can only imagine what it was like recruiting this motley crew.

When I think of John, he strikes me as this peace, love, and Woodstock-type. If he had lived in the 1970s he probably would have driven a flowered Volkswagen van, – a mellow laid back dude, deep thinker, probably one of those silent types. Then Jesus got hold of him and sent him even deeper. Well this silent one became one of the Sons of Thunder, so when peace, love, and Woodstock met the greatest love of all, one can only imagine the transformation.

Now on the other side of all this I see Peter. I picture him with some pretty rough edges. He strikes me as a Popeye, William Wallace type. He was probably the anchor of the fishing fleet. His men admired him; his brother followed him. He struck me as a kick the door down first, think about it later type of person. He was probably the type who would lead the brawl, bodies flying all over, only to wake up the next morning trying to make sense of it all. Jesus saw in him the ability to stand for what he believed. The plan was now to tweak it a bit.

So far I've only begun trying to figure these guys out and we've got Dr. Love and Hulk Hogan. Let's take a look at Matthew. He reminds me of a chicken hawk and a government rat, – a taxman whom all despised! He probably knew and heard every sales pitch under the sun. If there ever was someone who walked in a false identity, this was probably the guy. He also knew how to save his bacon and how to doctor up the records. In his workplace he heard nothing but stories and he was probably a great storyteller himself. Then on one specific day the real story walked up to his tax table and said to him, "Come and follow me". We now have Dr. Love, Hulk Hogan and the Government Rat.

Can you imagine these three guys in the same room? Actually thinking about it would be hilarious. With Luke jumping on board, this motley crew had an opportunity to get balanced out. Luke was probably the only stable professional one out of the whole bunch. As a professional doctor and an educated historian he had to figure things out as he hung out with the three amigos. Luke, being the professional, struck me as the one who probably asked all the right questions. As one who was in the healing profession, he got to hang out with the greatest healer of all.

Now Luke's educated cranium gets totally rocked when Simon the zealot shows up – Simon the Middle East extremist. This guy had one thing on his mind and that was to overthrow the Romans. Can you picture Luke and Simon having a conversation? His one-track mind probably got him into all kinds of arguments during the round table discussions. He most likely saw Jesus as the one who was finally going to rid the Romans from the neighborhood. But after all the inaugurations, these hard cases ended up with a great argument for the hard cases of the world.

Then there's Thomas, imagine walking down the street with this guy. All you would hear is, "I don't think so! I doubt it! Get out of town!" Jesus probably had some serious one-on-ones with him. Then there were the young guns like John Mark who became known as a runner because when things got heated up, — he'd bail on everybody. But in the end he was the go-between for Peter and Paul.

The bottom line is that Jesus picked out some people with amazing personalities and he tweaked them a bit. He didn't clone them nor did he force them to express things a certain way. Ignited by heaven they creatively expressed the things of heaven in their unique ways. They all came to know a God who is very innovative, and in their unique presentations they expressed the things of God. They were a motley and rejected bunch, but boy did they walk in power. Motivated by a God who was constantly on the move! Now I'm convinced the game plan hasn't changed a whole lot for today. He's still on the move and looking for some very real and unique people who are simply available.

7 - Restoration

1 - Revelation 2 - Interpretation 3 - Presentation **4 - Restoration**

7 - 1 Restoration Introduction

This FINAL STEP has everything to do with realigning and restoring.

Jesus, who is the Spirit of Prophecy, came with a demonstration of His Father's Kingdom, bringing things into its proper alignment. He will renew, revive, refresh, release and restore all that has been distorted by the adversary, for since the garden, the adversary has continually stolen from the Lord.

“ Jesus came on the scene to restore what was lost and to restore what was stolen. Now if restoration played a big part in the “Spirit of Prophecy”, how much more should we be carrying on with the tradition of restoration when it comes to the prophetic language that we find ourselves engaged in? ”

If restoration was important to Jesus then it should be important to us as we process any prophetic language that comes our way. It has always been amazing to watch the power of restoration manifest when revelation, interpretation, and presentation all come into in their proper alignment, all working in sync, creating the reaction that heaven fully intended!

This section reveals how restoration is vital when it comes to prophetic ministry.

7 - 2 Jesus is the Restorer

Jesus' role as restorer has been a continuous and progressive work. Although at the cross He declared the full victory, "It is finished" - John 19:30, — but the work of restoration and prophetic ministry is still on-going towards that completeness. It is a done deal! God the Father has put all things in subjection under His feet and has left nothing out that is not put under Him. But we have not seen all things because of the progressive nature of the restoration. But then shall the end come and He will completely reign. He will rule with all authority and power. He will put all His enemies under His feet, — that last enemy being death!

“ This full restoration will be revealed when Jesus returns as the conquering King. Jesus Himself has prophesied of the restoration and His plans to complete the work. He is the conductor of the whole restoration, and through prophetic ministry He has enabled us to play our part in the process.”

In the time of the great disobedience, everything, — and I mean everything, went out the window. With Jesus coming on the scene, everything now has the potential to come back into alignment. Any alignment today comes with the restoration needed so that we can walk in the fullness as intended both naturally and supernaturally. As things start to come back into alignment for the next season at hand, restoration will play a big part personally and also corporately.

Again, because of the damaged goods that we have become, and now with the many land mines that have been planted to prevent any future alignment, prophetic ministry will now need to play a strategic part in our lives. It is critical that we only move when He moves.

Again I cannot stress the importance of how we need to line up with the correct model of prophetic ministry if we plan to make any serious headway in this next season.

Jesus has clearly demonstrated His role as restorer through the power of the prophetic word, through healing, deliverance, raising the dead, along with the transformation of lives who were once blind but now can see, and He has commissioned us to join with Him in the restorative work, for we have been added to the restoration process. Matthew 10:8 says “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, now freely give” and John 14:12 says “He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do as well; and greater . . .”

An example of “Restoration” in the Natural that restored both the Natural and the Supernatural

Monster in my Bedroom

The Prophetic Journey

I started my new job as a milkman in the west end of town and was to deliver milk to a new customer in a house that I once rented. The young woman who opened the door asked me to step inside. She found out that I had, at one time, lived in that house, and she wanted to talk to me about the things that were scaring her daughter. Almost every night her daughter would wake up and run across the hall into her mom’s bedroom asking her mom to get rid of that scary thing that appeared in her bedroom. That was the real reason for the milk delivery. The young mother wanted to ask me if this type of thing ever happened while I lived here.

I mentioned that some pretty weird events did happen on the property. Spirits from the dark side did appear, the furniture in the kitchen did entertain itself the odd evening, and the sound of voices did ring the still air every now and then, but everything disappeared after we prayerfully took care of it. Obviously the revelation that I received from the Lord was that the dark side tore up their eviction notice and decided to occupy once again. After our lengthy conversation I told her I would pray for her daughter.

I jumped into the back of my milk truck, cleared out all the empty milk crates, got on my knees and began to pray. I prayed that heaven would send angels to watch over this little girl, and that these menacing spirits would no longer have their way! I asked the Lord to step in and give this little girl a covering.

A week later I went back to deliver more milk and the young woman came dashing out the door. She said that the very night after my day of visitation, her daughter slept the entire evening. When she woke up the next morning she told her mom about a big angel that stood by her bed. Apparently this angel leaned over and spoke to her little girl saying that everything was going to be all right. He had been sent to watch over her, and from that day forward, that angel, on assignment, stood by her bed every night.

What I found out later was that this young woman once walked with Jesus but somehow she got caught up with a major drug dealer who is now serving time. That encounter made her realize that the Kingdom of heaven is very real, and that the angels of God are all around. Not long after, her cousin showed up from out of town and took her to a gospel event where her life with Jesus was restored.

7 - 3 Jesus - Alpha & Omega / Beginning & End

The One behind all the Restoration

Our Heavenly Father intended this name to mean more than any other. This blessed one, beloved of the Father, has become the Chief Administrator of our faith. It was evident that someone needed to be sent, for the sick needed healing, the faulty needed redeeming, the banished needed reconciling, corruption needed regeneration, and the lost needed a Savior, a Father and a Family.

Jesus becomes faith's strongest rock, hope's brightest star, and love's holiest sanctuary. He has become truth's fairest jewel, life's strongest cord, light's clearest ray, joy's deepest tide and glory's grandest summit.

He has become the King of kings and Lord of lords. There is no name above this one. His greatness and majesty are absolutely inconceivable. The grandeur of God and the glory of the Father is revealed in His character. This one who is Alpha and Omega is the whole revelation of God. The Heaven of heavens cannot contain Him. As one who dwells in that high and holy place, He is the highest administrator.

He stands for what is all truth for He is the source of all truth. He is the only way to spiritual truths, for He is the key that unlocks those truths. He is the door and the interpreter of the realities of the invisible. His loving kindness is never lacking, His strength is never stale, His wisdom is never distorted, and He has never faltered.

“ He has brought honor to a household, fame to a family, glory to a generation and praise to a people. He has gained glory for the Godhead and honor upon the heavens. He has furnished the foundations of faith and has become the author of eternal salvation and is the one who is called to restore all things.”

His words have stood the test of time, – none have faltered. He has magnified the splendor of mercy and has glorified a generous display of grace. He is the brightness of God’s glory. He is the heir of all things and the head of all principality and power. By virtue of His name, His nature, and His nobility, Jesus has shrouded us with all the fullness of God so that we can walk in completeness.

He is the key of all abiding wisdom and spiritual knowledge, and the door of destiny. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, the source and substance to all spiritual sufficiency. He has become our peace and with commanding authority He quiets any storm, quenches all fiery darts. Jesus brought the full expression of love, a new dimension of life, and a whole new meaning to light. He bore witness of a supernatural home, a corruptless heritage, and a dominion of a Kingdom that will abide forever.

7 - 4 Reconciliation

Because of the degree of damaged goods that we have become, for those who have survived the last season, reconciliation is not far behind the restoration process. As prophetic ministry steers us into restoration, that forward motion will lead us to reconciliation. The chances of us becoming an instrument in the reconciliation process to those around us is very good considering that some of the ground that we are walking on is hard and needs breaking.

The breaking of ground through reconciliation will play a big part when entering into prophetic ministry. Any reconciling (receiving or releasing) needs to be connected with humility and honesty, and it needs to be approached prayerfully, showing genuine accountability. There needs to be forgiveness and repentance. It's pretty tough to move forward if these are not set in motion.

The assaults on people, especially in this last season, have been quite damaging, — the deepest scars are deep, but now the voice of reconciliation will have the ability to call things forward as originally intended, to bring life to callings, identities and destinies. To reconcile is not an option, for it is key in the restoration process.

7 - 5 Holy Spirit

The Key to Making it all Work!

The most important force behind prophetic revelation will be the Holy Spirit.

Walking in the Holy Spirit will be vital. Connecting with Him daily will be even more vital. To move and speak as He instructs is extremely vital.

When being led by the Holy Spirit, we are really being led by the Trinity. How the three work as one is absolutely amazing, for it is the Holy Spirit who reveals the language of Jesus, which is really a language that we need to model, who in turn is revealing the heart of the Father. The Holy Spirit is speaking the voice of the Father modeled through Jesus, with the authority of Jesus, which was given to Him by His Father, a voice demonstrating an amazing love spoken with amazing grace.

“ Our voice should have the Ministry of the Holy Spirit all over it. We should be led by the Spirit and functioning in the Spirit. But to be led by the Holy Spirit is to be led by the character of Jesus, which is to be led by the heart of the Father. It really is the voice of the Father, defined through the character of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, now manifested through prophetic ministry.”

There now comes a tremendous responsibility when handling and landing that prophetic language. The ongoing problem with prophetic language is that a Holy God is working through vessels that are all presently a work in progress, and are all going through the maturing process. The only real way to minimize the problem is that we run everything through Jesus. The more we understand His character, the better we can then operate when facilitating prophetic ministry.

Through prophetic ministry we speak the prophetic language of what the Holy Spirit is communicating. A language that is in sync with the model, and with the Kingdom. It really is all about the Father’s Kingdom and His will being released, which has everything to do with restoration, including all the steps towards that restoration, along with the strategies needed to walk out the next season. His plan is that we walk in the fullness of who we are in Him, an identity that is very different than what this world has for us. It is an amazing process, and our God is clearing the way, for He is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path

7 - 6 Restoration Conclusion

Jesus has everything to do with Prophetic Ministry. He is the driving force for He is the Spirit of Prophecy. He carries all the titles that make prophetic ministry work. He is the Revelation, He is the Interpreter, He is the Presenter, and He is the Restorer.

“ For prophetic ministry to have its full impact we cannot allow ourselves to start connecting the dots at the middle of the page. We really need to start connecting the dots at the foundational level, and as we connect those prophetic ministry dots the way they were originally intended, the results will always come from the root of the One who has established it all! ”

It should always be coming from that place of origin, from the founder, the Alpha and Omega, the One called “ The Spirit of Prophecy.” The One who is the Restorer of all things! As mentioned in Revelation, He plans to restore, and He plans to bring it all to the finish line!

8 - Ekklesia Alignment

8 - 1 Alignment & Realignment

It shouldn't be surprising that after reading a manual like "Ekklesia & Prophetic Ministry according to Jesus" that one would have questions. To some, it's like a breath of fresh air. Others will have a few questions. Then there are those who felt something underlying when reading the material, — something much deeper that can be missed with just a casual read. But to truly bring this Ekklesia experience into its proper perspective, it is important to know what this manual is, — and what it is not!

This Manual is not . . .

. . . a manual designed to introduce a new denomination, nor was it designed to supplant, replace, or undermine any work of God in the past, present or future. Also, this is not a manual on how things in the past were totally misguided and that the publishing of this manual is the answer to everything that's gone wrong.

This Manual is . . .

. . . a call to realign both individually and organizationally to the model that Jesus released. This is what the first two sections, "Ekklesia & Prophetic Ministry according to Jesus" are all about. In practical terms this means that everything we say, do, think, our attitudes, our ways of relating to everyone on the planet, our gifts, abilities, skills and the exercising of the same must all be filtered through and directed by the principles Jesus both taught and modeled. It really is about Jesus in us, and the hope of His glory!

8 - 2 Ekklesia Leadership Model

Leadership is one area that can generate some pretty emotional conversations. Bad leadership has hurt many, but in the midst of it all there are few models of good leadership functioning today. Regardless of what our experience with leadership is or has been, we cannot escape the fact that as people, when we get together in groups, how we tend to organize and establish that familiar leadership model. The real challenge is not in accepting what we already know. The challenge is bringing into existence positive organizations that can reproduce teams of good leadership.

To become the Ekklesia that Jesus modeled; our leadership and organizational values must reflect that same model. Very rarely, if ever, does the full counsel of God rest in an individual man or woman. One author said, “One must not presume to be more spiritual than he actually is.” So what does this leave us with when it comes to establishing a leadership within the Ekklesia?

Ekklesia, a Model defined, a Kingdom defined

I would suggest scripture would be the best place to look. Jesus modeled how the leadership team should operate: with Jesus as the head, a team of individuals with various backgrounds, skills and gifts, all operating together towards a common goal. The Kingdom that Jesus landed with and demonstrated came with Kingdom applications known as and later defined as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, and Teacher.

Good leadership requires transparency and vulnerability between members of the five-fold team and beyond. There is recognition of each team member’s strengths and weaknesses. That includes skills, abilities, natural talents and spiritual gifts. Somewhere in the mix, we all carry more than one of the five. When tapping in this model, nobody really gets to walk around with that permanent swing vote, because it’s all about teamwork.

We either agree or we agree to disagree, but as we gather and inquire of the Holy Spirit, — we will agree because we need to agree on something in order to move forward. In love, honour and agreement, we move forward as we lay it all on the table.

For example, if you are a pastor, you really need that apostolic person around you to move forward in a big way, for he is the one that understands Kingdom dynamics like no other, — that needs to be put on the table. And you also need that prophetic voice, that prophetic person who understands the times and the seasons for today. That too needs to be put on the table. The same is with the evangelist and teacher. As a pastoral leader under Ekklesia . . . leaning on one another is imperative if you truly want to take care of the Fathers business.

A person who is a leader is already leading. Someone who is prophetic is already prophesying. A teacher is already teaching. There are literally thousands of people pastoring who never have had, and never will have ‘Pastor’ as their title, but the body of Christ would be desperately weakened without them. It is who they are; who God created them to be. We need to be tapping into that well!

Ekklesia, a Model Exemplified

Jesus made it pretty clear in Matt 20:25-28: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your greatest servant just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Look at what Jesus did with the disciples. He built relationships. He taught them through teaching and with a hands-on application. Jesus then mentored them by sending them out and having them return for those needed debriefings, finally releasing them to make disciples of all nations. Throughout the book of Acts, the Apostles repeated this model as they expanded the Kingdom releasing a trail of gatherings behind them.

8 - 3 Moving Forward

While none of this may be new, moving in this direction won't be easy. Rarely if ever is change easy! It wasn't easy for the Jews in Jesus' time as He challenged their traditions and practices with a power and an authority that were never displayed ever before. In the same fashion, the 21st century body of Christ has picked up traditions and practices that are not necessarily in alignment with Christ's teaching.

This is not a matter of judgment or blame directed toward any individual or group. It is a recognition that, despite our best intentions, our ability to be corrupted and to act out in our own self-interest is something that will plague us until we are one with Him in heaven. Some of us have our own ambitions that we've buried beneath a veneer of false humility.

So when change appears on the horizon, our personal agenda(s) are threatened making us resistant to the changes regardless of how positive they might be. Others have mindsets, attitudes or prejudices that we've been taught, or allowed to become part of our life. Change has a way of forcing us to revisit these and determine whether or not if they are Godly or something that we might need to discard. And finally, any attempt at change can be thwarted because of poor execution; we fail to count the cost, recognize potential challenges, and/or rush ahead too quickly, not recognizing and accounting for the fact that 'We don't know what we don't know'.

Let's Talk Model

When talking about Jesus' model, we're not just talking about a type of teaching or authority structure or theological approach. We're talking about the whole package of who Jesus is: attributes, attitudes, values, approach to relationships, etc. as well as leadership/ministry style.

In a practical application the question then becomes, what is there about us and/or our organization that is out of alignment with Jesus? This is the underlying challenge associated with this call. And the challenge is not for the faint of heart. It is a challenge asking us if we are willing to allow Holy Spirit to scrutinize our mindsets, traditions, and/or prejudices removing those that are contrary to His purposes and realigning us with His. It is a place of vulnerability, of surrender, of humility and exposure to the Holiness of God on a daily basis.

Ekklesia was not Bullet Proof then, nor will it be Today

It is a process not a one-time event. God is asking us if we are willing to let Him make you into the Ekklesia that Jesus modeled? And that's what seems unnerving for a lot of us. No matter how deep our relationship with Jesus may have been in the past or how close we are with Him today, it is a call to be willing to go deeper, and for a lot of us that may not be on our radar.

Like many believers, we have been hurt, maligned, betrayed, and rejected, and some have allowed the Holy Spirit to dust themselves off hoping that they would enter into that next level of their Holy Spirit journey. So the challenge that comes with this manual is; are we willing to let God take us into the Ekklesia that He has called us to be a part of?

The chances of being misunderstood, misinterpreted, rejected, and betrayed is a present-day reality that will no doubt surface with this ongoing narrative. As in the times of Jesus, — Ekklesia was not bullet proof then, nor will it be today! It's not going to be easy and it will be a bit of a process!

But the good news out of all this is that God already knows that we don't have what it takes to be the Ekklesia He's called us to be. That's why Jesus died and rose again in our place. That's why He sent Holy Spirit to empower us, encourage us, comfort us, and work through us.

We were never intended to do this on our own but in community, in fellowship, in partnership with other believers. So regardless of what our part is in the Ekklesia we are not alone, nor are we dependent upon our own strength and resources. Being part of His Ekklesia is not all pain and suffering, nor is it all glory hallelujahs. It is all of those and more. It is real life, real joy and real fulfillment. So how can we not answer the call and take up the challenge God has put before us?

Successes and Mistakes

Someone once quoted: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” You may have heard different versions of this but it remains as true today as it did back then. The writer would agree that the importance of remembering the past is so that we learn from both the successes and the mistakes, and we use what we’ve learned to make a better present and future.

Mistakes, hurt, pain, suffering seems to be part of the life we walk. We’ve all been both perpetrators and victims. It may have been the result of unconscious oversight or malicious intent. It is irrelevant because the damage has been done. Allow it to fester long enough and the poison of bitterness, judgments, and protective vows move into our souls clouding our vision, dulling our ability to hear, isolating us from the love of God and others.

Massive are the Individuals and the Groups that cause Division

Ephesians 4:5 mentions about one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father. There are literally thousands of confirmed denominations, and many more that are even more unconfirmed. I wondered what is perceived when those caught in the balance find themselves standing amongst the many factions of all who claim to know the Christ. Jesus says, “. . . everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Division is massive in this world and history teaches us that unless true forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation happens within our midst, the poison of bitterness, judgments and protective vows will continue to divide and isolate us from each other and from God. That doesn't mean that God doesn't move in spite of us. It means that we are limited in our ability to participate with God in what He is doing. It also limits the depth of relationship that we can experience with God and others.

We need to Climb Out of our Respectable Trenches

The call to become the Ekklesia God has always desired requires us to be willing to climb out of our respective trenches, at the risk of being shot at, by those who want to remain entrenched. We need to own our messes, ask for forgiveness, offer forgiveness and begin the process of reconciliation where possible. It was and is the primary mission of Jesus. Can it be any less with us?

For most of us, we have never fully understood how Holy Spirit has already equipped us. We've barely scratched the surface of the potential that He has placed within us. If we are to become the Ekklesia, we need tap into the wisdom of our past experiences (Good, bad and the ugly), to embrace the gifts/abilities/skills that we've been given, and through prayer, discipline, and the exercising of them, we will discover their full potential as we start functioning as the Ekklesia model that Jesus originally intended.