Developing the Prophetic Anointing for Apostolic Ministry

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I. Today I want to talk to you about developing the prophetic anointing for apostolic ministry.

A. “Prophetic”

1. In NT terms prophetic refers to speaking a message inspired by the Holy Spirit that communicates God’s truth, strengthens His people, brings encouragement, at times provides correction, and helps the church fulfill its purpose in Christ.

2. When people think of prophetic or prophecy, they often think of foretelling future events.

3. In the New Testament it is most often "forthtelling” = speaking a “now word.”

4. What is God saying to us now, today, in this moment, or season.

5. It’s a timely word… inspired by the Holy Spirit

B. “Anointing”

1. In context to this message anointing is the supernatural empowerment to fulfill God’s purpose and plans.

2. It is the enablement to do what God has called a person to do.

3. It’s Holy Spirit inspiration to say and do what is needed in that moment or season.

C. “Apostolic Ministry”

Ephesians 4:11–12 (NLT) — 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

1. These are the gifts Jesus gave the church

2. Known as the five-fold ministry or calling.

3. NKJV says “He=Jesus, gave some

4. Not everyone has an Apostolic calling

5. This speaks of people set apart from others, equipped and empowered by the HS to prepare God’s people to build up the church, the body of Christ.

6. It’s not a job, it’s a calling

7. It's not a vocation, it's a mission

8. You can go to bible school and get a bible degree; You can go to seminary and get a graduate degree and have all kinds of letters after your name. Master of Divinity, or Doctor of Theology

9. Education is great and it is important…

10. Unfortunately, there are too many pulpits filled with educated people who have no sense of calling.

11. People who know how to dissect the Hebrew/Aramaic and Greek but can't discern the voice of the Holy Spirit.

D. We live in incredibly challenging times

1. The church desperately needs to hear what God is saying

2. We need Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers who are anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit speaking with prophetic anointing the word of the Lord.

E. I believe God is going to activate this gifting in everyone who desires it today.

1. And for those of you who will hear this message online and in the future that you also will be touched by the power of the Holy Spirit to hear and speak God's word in power and truth.

II. Ezekiel (chapter 2)

A. Ezekiel was the son of Buzi and came from a priestly family.

1. Because of his background, temple rituals, purity laws, and priestly imagery heavily influence his writings.

B. He was called to be a prophet while living among the Jewish exiles in Babylon.

1. His ministry began around 593 BCE, roughly five years after the first wave of exiles (including Daniel) were deported from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 BCE.

C. Let's focus on those things the Lord spoke to Ezekiel which activated his prophetic anointing and calling.

Ezekiel 2:2–4 (NLT) — 2 The Spirit came into me as he spoke, and he set me on my feet. I listened carefully to his words. 3 “Son of man,” he said, “I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day. 4 They are a stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending you to say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says!’

D. Take note of three things in these three verses

III. I am SENDING YOU.

A. An apostle in the Bible means "one who is sent out," derived from the Greek word apostolos, referring to an ambassador, messenger, or envoy commissioned with specific authority.

1. The very nature of the five-fold ministry… whether you serve as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher is that of being SENT by Jesus

2. We who serve must remember that we are called by God and sent to His people to speak on His behalf

3. Let me reiterate this important truth… you did not choose Him, He chose you!

4. Your calling, your anointing, your ability to help others came not from your human resources, it came from Jesus who chose you and sent you.

5. No man, no organization, no government, no religious institution can override your divine calling.

6. No devil, no demon, no powers of wickedness can hinder what God intended for you to accomplish unless you allow that to happen.

B. You are a “sent one” with a divine mission to accomplish the will and purpose of the King of Kings who sent you

1. As His ambassador you carry with you His authority to act on His behalf.

2. When you speak, you must speak His word on His behalf.

C. It is critical you embrace this truth in your heart and your head… you are called, sanctified, set apart, sent to serve God’s people.

1. Live, and walk and minister as one sent from God.

2. Let the testimony of your life reflect your holy calling.

IV. Secondly, SPEAK HIS WORD

Ezekiel 2:4 (NLT) — 4 They are a stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending you to say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!'

A. God was very specific with Ezekiel about his calling

1. He was to speak what the Lord says to His people.
2. This would require Ezekiel to position himself to hear.

B. How does one do that? How do you position yourself to hear what God is saying?

C. I would suggest a few things:

1. Spend time alone seeking to hear His voice.
   a) Do you spend time alone with God seeking to hear Him.
   b) Do you silence the world around you so you can hear Him speak.
2. Ask Him what He wants to say?
   a) Do you ask the Holy Spirit what's in His heart that He wants you to communicate to His people?
   b) Or do you search the web looking for something to share with God's people?
   c) Ezekiel was to speak what God said to him.
   d) It was a "NOW word." A timely word. In other words, it was what God wanted to impart to His people for that moment in time.
   e) It was relevant to the circumstances of their lives.
   f) It would bring, comfort, encouragement, direction, at times correction.
   g) It's what God's people needed to hear
   h) We have the same responsibility as those with an apostolic calling.
3. To position yourself to hear what God is saying you must also DIGEST THE WORD OF GOD.

Ezekiel 3:1–4 (NLT) — 1 The voice said to me, "Son of man, eat what I am giving you—eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel." 2 So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll.

3 "Fill your stomach with this," he said. And when I ate it, it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth. 4 Then he said, "Son of man, go to the people of Israel and give them my messages.

a) Before Ezekiel was to go, he was to eat the scroll.

b) He was to fill his stomach with the scroll

c) He needed to digest the scroll before he would have the ability to give God's message to God's people.

d) In essence God's word was to become a part of Ezekiel before he could go speak to God's people.

e) In order to minister with a prophetic anointing, you must consume the Word of God so that it literally becomes a part of you.

f) I have a friend who I affectionately call prophet Pat. He use to attend both of my former churches.

g) He has a calling as a prophet. He often exercises that gift when he would come to services.

h) Part of the reason why he can exercise that gift is because he consumes the word of God daily.

i) He can quote verses of scripture on most subjects in a moment.

j) This is part of what it takes to walk out that prophetic anointing in apostolic ministry

D. I'm concerned for the church.

E. I'm concerned that too many pastors and preachers are spending time seeking a word from the web, and not seeking "the word" from the Lord.

1. Now with AI at our fingertips we can put in any subject and tell AI to build a sermon with scripture references and in moments you will have your sermon.

2. And the preacher will read it and what they have may be theologically accurate… it's just words. It's not life giving because it's source was artificial.

3. The preacher didn't have to wrestle with God…

4. Their hearts weren't transformed by the power of the HS and the living word of God.

Ezekiel 3:10–11 (NLT) — 10 Then he added, "Son of man, let all my words sink deep into your own heart FIRST. Listen to them carefully for yourself. 11 Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not."

F. This is the template to follow if you want to minister with a prophetic anointing in your apostolic calling.

1. First Ezekiel had to eat the words
2. He had to digest the word so that it became a part of him
3. The word had to sink deep into his heart first.
4. Once the word impacted his life then he was ready to go minister it to God's people.
5. And when he did notice the benefits

V. Benefits of operating with a prophetic anointing in apostolic ministry

Ezekiel 3:11–14 (NLT) — 11 Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not." 12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard a loud rumbling sound behind me. (May the glory of the Lord be praised in his place!)

13 It was the sound of the wings of the living beings as they brushed against each other and the rumbling of their wheels beneath them. 14 The Spirit lifted me up and took me away. I went in bitterness and turmoil, but the Lord's hold on me was strong.

A. #1. The Spirit lifted him up! = GOD'S HAND WAS ON HIS LIFE

1. Twice in this passage it says the Spirit lifted him up.
2. This phrase can be interpreted in many ways.
3. It speaks clearly that God's hand was on his life.
4. It was the Holy Spirit that lifted him up
5. There is no greater source of comfort than being lifted up by the HS.
6. Seeing and sensing His hand on your life and ministry.

B. The Spirit lifted him up! #2. The HS STRENGTHENED HIM THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME in ministry.

1. When you read these passages it's clear that God's calling on Ezekiel was not going to be an easy road.
2. The target audience….

Ezekiel 2:3–4 (NLT) — 3 "Son of man," he said, "I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. They and their ancestors have been rebelling against me to this very day. 4 They are a stubborn and hard-hearted people. But I am sending you to say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!'

3. A rebellious, stubborn, hard-hearted people

Ezekiel 3:11 (NLT) —11 Then go to your people in exile and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says!' Do this whether they listen to you or not."

4. Put yourself in Ezekiel's sandals for just a moment.

5. God speaks to you and says He is sending you to give a message…

6. Oh, by the way… this bunch I'm sending you to are rebellious, stubborn, hard-hearted and they probably won't listen to you, but go anyway, and speak anyway.

7. I don't know if any of you have had the blessing of ministering to a group like this week after week.

8. Not seeing any positive response to the messages you have toiled over

9. no fruit from your efforts;

10. Ezekiel's reaction to the assignment… bitterness and turmoil.

11. God didn't reject Ezekiel for his human emotions because of his assignment.

12. How do you stay encouraged; how do you remain faithful?

Ezekiel 3:14 (NLT) — 14 The Spirit lifted me up and took me away. I went in bitterness and turmoil, but the Lord's hold on me was strong.

13. God gave him the strength to walk out his calling.

14. Ezekiel could feel the Lord's "hold" on him was strong.

15. God preserved him; God enabled him; God strengthened him;

16. God never gave up on Ezekiel and He will never give up on you.

17. And all you need to do what He has called you to do is already resident in you.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) — 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

C. COURAGE TO STAND IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

Ezekiel 3:8–9 (NLT) — 8 But look, I have made you as obstinate and hard-hearted as they are. 9 I have made your forehead as hard as the hardest rock! So don't be afraid of them or fear their angry looks, even though they are rebels."

1. God had given him a difficult task… to speak His word to those who were hard-hearted, rebellious, stubborn and wouldn't listen.

2. God gave Ezekiel the courage and resolve to look them in the face and not fear.

VI. I am reminded that I am a "sent one."

A. I have a sure calling from the living God.

1. He has separated me unto Himself in order to speak His truth to this people in this generation.

2. I didn't choose Him, He chose me.

3. I didn't enter into the ministry as a job, God sent me here.

4. I must daily remind myself that I have a holy calling from a holy God and not take this responsibility lightly.

B. I must position myself to hear the word of the Lord.

1. What is God's message for this people in this moment

Jeremiah 29:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you, says the Lord, …

2. I must be intentional about seeking the word of the Lord

3. Please don't be casual about those opportunities God gives you to teach and preach.

4. What do you want to say to this people?

5. Then take the time to listen.

C. EAT THE SCROLL = INGEST THE WORD OF GOD DAILY

1. This speaks of internalizing the word of God.

2. Meditating on it so that it becomes part of me.

3. Memorizing it; studying it; wrestling with difficult passages; praying over it.

Psalm 119:11 (NLT) — 11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:15–16 (NLT) — 15 I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. 16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

Psalm 119:45 (NLT) — 45 I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments.

Psalm 119:89–90 (NLT) — 89 Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven. 90 Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.

Psalm 119:105 (NLT) — 105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:160 (NLT) — 160 The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.

Psalm 119:165 (NLT) — 165 Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.

D. It is my encouragement today to develop the prophetic anointing for your apostolic calling and ministry.

E. People desperately need to hear the word of the Lord.

F. You and I are called to bring it to them each time we stand up to minister to His people.

VII. Let's pray

VIII.