

SUPERNATURAL #10: LAST DAYS PROPHETIC MINISTRY

(September 2009 – Beausejour Church – Pastor Chris Jordan)

OPENING TEXT:

“**16** But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17** 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. **18** And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. **19** I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath... **21** And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.” (Acts 2:16-21).

- God wants to pour out His Spirit on all believers so we can prophesy His Word.
- When we do this, multitudes of people will come to know Jesus as Saviour!

THE BIG IDEA: God is raising up the last days prophetic generation that Joel prophesied about. He wants us to become a prophetic people who hear His voice, and proclaim His living word to others. When we do this, we will see people encouraged, comforted, and set free.

THREE EXAMPLES OF PROPHETIC PEOPLE IN ACTS:

1. STEPHEN:

- We first read Stephen’s story three weeks ago:

“**But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"**” (Acts 7:55-56).

- Stephen was just a regular Christian who heard that he could be used by God.
- When Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, he engaged the prophetic realms of revelation:
- He saw an open Heaven, the glory of God, and a vision of Jesus

2. PHILIP:

- Review his story from two weeks ago: Philip was just a regular Christian who heard that he could be used by God.
- He who preached Christ, did many signs and wonders, people got saved, and there was great joy in the city. Let’s take a look at the second part of his story:

“**So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.**” (Acts 8:25-26).

- Here Philip too engaged the prophetic realms of revelation – he had an encounter with an angel. The angel spoke to him and gave him direction: “Arise and go...”

“**So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.**” (Acts 8:27-31).

- Next, the Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and told him to go to the chariot.
- When Philip obeyed the Spirit, he had a God opportunity to minister to someone.

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:35-38).

- Because Philip was led by the Spirit, he had an opportunity to lead someone to the Lord.
- We need to learn to listen for that still small voice, and obey it!

3. ANANIAS:

- Ananias was just another regular Christian who heard that he could be used by God.
- Note that none of these Christians who are seen here engaging the prophetic realm and being used by God were pastors or preachers – they were just regular believers.

“Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision (*Saul had a vision, too!*) he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.” (Acts 9:10-20).

- We remember from Saul’s story last week that he was a religious zealot and a terrorist. Would he have come to faith in Jesus had it not been for this prophetic disciple, Ananias?

SUJMMARY:

Of how these three disciples engaged the prophetic realms of revelation:

- Open heavens - Stephen had a vision of the glory of God and Jesus
- Angelic visitations - Philip received direction from an angel
- Hearing the voice of God - the Lord spoke to both Philip and Ananias
 - God wants all Christians to learn how to hear His voice.
 - God is always speaking. The problem is, we’re not always listening.
 - **“Be still and know that I am God.”** (Psalm 46:10).
- The result of these God encounters = people were saved!
- This is why we want to contend for the prophetic – to see lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE PERSONAL PROPHECY:

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

Next Sunday, we are going to be hosting a prophetic conference at our church, and many of you may receive a personal prophecy. How do we respond to a personal prophetic word?

TEST THE WORD: To see if it is from the Lord

- Does it build up, encourage and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3)?
- Is the spirit of the prophecy the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10)?
- Does the prophecy line up with the written word of God (Isaiah 8:20)?
- Does it glorify the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 12:3)?
- If it's not from the Lord, don't stone the prophet. There is a difference between weak and false prophecy!

HOLD ON TO THE WORD: If it is good and from the Lord.

- Pray about it: It might be a now word, or a confirming word, or a future word.
- Personal prophecy is conditional - it refers to the possibility, not inevitability.
- Be patient until it comes to pass.

RESOURCES: We have a CD on **“Revival and the Extreme Prophetic”** that covers all of the basics of prophecy more in depth. You can also download this for free from our website.

I am also finishing up writing a mini-book called, “Prophetic Ministry 101” which I hope to have completed next week. I am posting short daily entries on our Faith Building Devotionals blog.

Beausejour Community Church Website: www.beausejourchurch.ca

Pastor Chris Jordan's Blog: <http://thelandofpromise.blogspot.com/>

THE NOTES ON THE NEXT PAGE ARE FROM THE MESSAGE:

“REVIVAL AND THE EXTREME PROPHECIC”

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BASICS OF PROPHECY.

REVIVAL #5: SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY SCHOOL: EXTREME PROPHETIC

(June 2008 – Beausejour Church – Pastor Chris Jordan)

KEY TEXT: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here.” (Rev. 4:1).

“And it shall come to pass in the last days that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.” (Joel 2:28).

THE BIG IDEA: God is raising up the prophetic generation that Joel prophesied about. God’s desire is that the church would be a prophetic people who hear His voice, and proclaim His living word to others. When we do this, we will see people encouraged, comforted, and set free.

I. THE BASICS OF PROPHECY:

1. PROPHECY REVEALS JESUS TO US – IT’S ABOUT KNOWING HIM MORE.

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.” (Ephesians 1:17).

“Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10).

- Prophecy reveals our Heavenly Father’s heart to us.

2. PROPHETIC GIFTS BLESS AND BUILD UP THE CHURCH.

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant...But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all...But earnestly desire the best gifts.” (1 Corinthians 12:1,7,31).

- God wants us to *desire* prophecy = *be zealous for, pursue eagerly or intensely.*

3. THE MOTIVATION FOR PROPHECY MUST BE LOVE:

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.” (1 Cor. 13:2).

4. PROPHECY IS TO ENCOURAGE AND COMFORT PEOPLE:

“Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy...But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.” (1 Cor. 14:1,3).

- The purpose of prophecy: Edification, Exhortation and Comfort:
- Edification: *building up, promoting another’s growth;* Exhortation: *encouragement*

5. PROPHECY WILL DRAW UNBELIEVERS TO THE LORD: Prophetic Evangelism

“But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced (*brought to light; exposed*) 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 Cor. 14:24-25).

- Reveals the secrets of their heart; causes them to worship God and declare God is real.

6. ALL CAN PROPHECY SO WE CAN LEARN AND BE ENCOURAGED:

“For you can all prophecy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.”

(1 Corinthians 14:31).

- Prophecy is a gift that all Christians can learn to operate in.

II. HOW TO GIVE A PROPHETIC WORD:

- Always ask God for permission to speak, and ask the person that the word is for, too
- Walk in love towards others - this must be our motivation
- Avoid negativity - prophecy is to build up, encourage and comfort
- When you're new to the prophetic - no '*dates, mates, direction or correction*'
- New Testament prophecy is primarily for confirmation, not direction.
- You're going to make mistakes! There's a difference between a *weak* and a *false* prophecy. (If you want to become stronger in the prophetic: Get in the Word!).
- Be normal and natural. Don't use "*Thus saith the Lord!*" or even, "*The Lord told me.*" until you mature in the prophetic. Say instead, "*I believe the Lord is saying...*"

III. WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE A PROPHETIC WORD:

“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

TEST THE WORD: To see if it is from the Lord

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HOLD ON TO THE WORD: If it is good and from the Lord.

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TESTIMONY: **Personal God-encounters** (God's voice, prophetic dreams, vision of an angel)

QUOTE: “*Unlike me, the people of the Bible heard God speak in a variety of ways. He spoke through an audible voice, through dreams, visions, circumstances, inner impressions, prophets, angels, and other ways, as well as through Scripture. But after God wrote the Bible, He apparently went mute...It is hard to read a book everyday that tells how God supernaturally intervenes in the lives of His children, and yet see no practical relevance for these supernatural phenomena in our present experience.*” (Jack Deer, Surprised by the Voice of God).

STORY: **Elijah's God-encounter**

“*I* And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and

more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." **3** And when he saw that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!" (1 Kings 19:1-4).

- Right on the heels of a major victory, Elijah went into a time of discouragement and wanted to give up. He was ready for a God encounter!

PARAPHRASE: "**5** Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." **6** Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. **7** And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." **8** So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God."

READ: "**9** And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" **10** So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." **11** Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; **12** and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:5-12).

IV. ENGAGING THE REALMS OF REVELATION:

- Revelation of the Word (The Holy Spirit speaks to you through the Scriptures)
- Hear God's voice (still small voice, audible voice, human messengers)
- Feel God's presence (often happens during worship)
- Have dreams (not all dreams are from the Lord)
- See visions (like dreams, only you are awake)
- Encounter angels (this happened frequently in the Bible)
- Encounter the Lord (an actual encounter with Jesus)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A GOD ENCOUNTER?

1. TO DRAW US INTO INTIMACY WITH THE LORD:

"O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, In the secret places of the cliff, Let me see your face, Let me hear your voice; For your voice is sweet, And your face is lovely." (Song 2:14).

- The most important reason for a God encounter is intimacy - friendship with Him
- Paul's prayer in Philippians 3:10, **"That I might know Him more..."**

2. TO REVEAL THE FATHER'S LOVE TO US:

"He brought me to the banqueting house, And his banner over me was love." (Song 2:4).

"The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit." (Romans 5:5).

- The second reason for a God encounter is so God can love on us.

3. TO TRANSFORM OUR CHARACTER:

“Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” (Genesis 32:24-28).

- Other example: Saul (Acts 9). God gives people a new name, and a new character, too.
- People are **transformed** when they encounter God – they are changed.

4. TO REFRESH OR ENCOURAGE US:

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before.” (Acts 3:19-20).

- Elijah during time of depression - God revealed Himself to him anew

5. TO GIVE US DIRECTION OR CALLING:

“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro... And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush...Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush...” (Exodus 3:1-4).

- God was calling Moses to do something great for Him

6. TO GIVE US PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL HEALING:

“And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.” (Matthew 9:20-21).

- After people encounter the Lord, they are saved, delivered and healed - transformed!

CLOSING: PRAY FOR OPEN SPIRITUAL EYES:

Pray for God to give you “the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened.” (Eph. 1:17-18).

- Prayer - for a release into the prophetic realm!

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Mike Bickle.	<u>Growing in the Prophetic</u>
Graham Cooke.	<u>Developing Your Prophetic Gifting.</u>
John & Sonya Decker.	<u>Doing What Jesus Did: Ministering in the Power of the Spirit.</u>
Jim Goll.	<u>Wasted on Jesus: Reaching for the Lover of Your Soul</u>
Jim Goll.	<u>The Coming Prophetic Revolution: A Call for Passionate, Consecrated Warriors</u>
Jack Hayford.	<u>Living the Spirit-Formed Life</u>
Bill Johnson:	<u>When Heaven Invades Earth: A Practical Guide to a Life of Miracles.</u>