



Notes for the Caleb Leadership Development Course

MODULAR SET 3 (M9 - 12) ‘THE ANOINTED WORK OF KINGDOM MINISTRY’

Module 12: ‘How to Engage Yourself & Others In Authentic Prophetic Activity’

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Name: _____

***Open College Network Level 3 Course on Christian Leadership Development
Developed and presented by Caleb Ministries***

Assessment Evidence for

Unit 12: “Prophecy and Prophetic Activity”

OCN Unit Code: DD2/3/NQ/010

NB:

(1) TYPED ANSWERS ARE PREFERRED BUT NOT INSISTED UPON. PLEASE EITHER SEND THEM FOR MARKING ELECTRONICALLY OR HAND THEM IN AS A PRINTED HARD COPY.

(2) ALWAYS PRINT OFF A MARKED COPY AND ADD IT TO YOUR PORTFOLIO.

(3) DO NOT ASSUME THAT THE SMALL SPACES INDICATE THAT ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF WORDS ARE REQUIRED.

(4) AS A GUIDE, YOUR TOTAL ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE WORD LENGTH FOR THE MODULE SHOULD BE BETWEEN 750 AND 1000 WORDS.

This unit has 3 learning outcomes.

LEARNING OUTCOMES		ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
The learner will:		The learner can:	
1. Understand the concepts of prophecy and prophetic activity, as taught by the Bible.		1.1. Explain the concept of prophecy.	1.2. Explain the concept of prophetic activity.
2. Understand how prophecy and prophetic activity, as taught by the Bible, may relate to own experience.		2.1. Analyse own experience of prophecy and prophetic activity.	
3. Understand Bible teachings about how God may speak to people.		3.1. Analyse ways in which, according to the Bible, God may speak to people.	

Assessment Criteria: U12/1:1 and 1:2
<i>Explain the concept of what Charismatic Christians mean by a) prophecy and b) prophetic activity.</i>

Assessment Criteria: U12/2:1

See and complete the Assessment Criteria 2:1 Assignment on the last page of your notes.

Complete either using this space or as a separate journal entry.

Assessment Criteria: U12/3:1

Using some Biblical references and your own experience as examples, analyse some of the ways that God might speak to people either directly or through another Christian.

Caleb Leadership Development Course

Module 12: How to Engage Yourself & Others In Authentic Prophetic Activity

SESSION 1 (1st hour): Becoming a Prophetic People

1) Introduction

- a. God desires deep intimacy and communion with His children. (*Recall the dialogue in the Songs of Solomon*). Faith rises and becomes focussed as we worship God.
- b. Therefore, it is of prime importance for all Christians to develop a thirst for and become naturally spiritual and not just a natural person who is confined to being nice and humanitarian - one who confines Christian spirituality to private devotions and religious performance. Living by Faith is the Jesus way of living.
- c. Consider the reality of the revelation of 'the Priesthood of all Believers.'
 - What does it mean to be a priest? See Scriptures in **Slide 2**
- d. As we examined in some depth in Module 1, since the birth of the Church, God has been calling leaders and senior ministers, to model + EQUIP the saints for the work of ministry. See **Slide 3** for Ephesians 4:11-13.
 - This involves 3 main activities. Recall this information in **Slides 4 and 5**
 - This doctrine has been blurred for so long because of the distinction made between the Clergy and Laity (or Ministers and the People) and the corresponding lack of equipping given to every Christian in the body of Christ.
 - A 'Dependency Model rather than an Equipping Model of church has resulted.
 - Sometimes, the necessary equipping needed to express spiritual life in a balanced way is often not given, for lots of reasons. See **Text box.**
- e. There is a real need to change our worldview of a) Christianity and b) ourselves in regard to becoming a people who disciple one another to open the eyes of our hearts and engage in prophetic activity.

Some reasons why leaders don't equip people to Engage in Spiritual Ministry

- Past negative experiences of excess can give rise to caution and control. The roots of this can be:
 - *Fear; desire to keep it safe; erroneous, damaging 'words' given in the past; don't want the hassle of mopping up any mess; insecurity etc.*
- Unawareness. The leaders themselves have never been truly taught and equipped to minister in the spiritual gifts OR...
- They or their cell leaders have never been trained to steer a release of the gifts in a small group meeting to the point where they feel confident and comfortable.
- The leaders don't hold to the doctrine that the gifts of the spirit are for today OR such meetings are just not their style.
- The leader feels obligated to do all the ministry and feel others may complain because of salary/title commitments.
- They feel that they have no time to allow for this as the meeting programme is already too full.
- They've tried it in the past and there were too many long silences, doubtful contributions and time wasted.

2) What is meant by the 'eyes of our hearts' being opened? See **Slide 6**

- a. It means our God given capacity to see and hear with the eyes & ears of our spirit. See **Slide 7**
- b. The Holy Spirit often reveals God's will to us together See **Slide 8**
- c. God longs to commune with His children so that such a dialoguing relationship becomes a vital part of our existence and as necessary as food. See **Slide 9**
- d. We have to learn how to help people to become sensitive and discerning to the words that constantly flow from the heart of God.

- e. Jesus could do NOTHING (!)... apart from that which His Father showed and told Him (John 5:19-20 and 30) See **Slide 10**
- f. Words from God have the power in themselves for their own fulfilment – often to do the impossible. See **Slide 11**
- g. **Sequence:** See; Hear; Understand; Decide to obey; Do.
 - Heaven meets earth in an explosion of love and power.
- h. For example, how did Simeon know that the baby brought into the temple that day was the Messiah? How could Agabus know that Paul would be bound with chains?
 - How can people give you a word from the Lord?
- i. The challenge for us as leaders is whether we are prepared to create opportunities for our people to both hear from God themselves and tell what the Lord may be saying to others prophetically AND then equip them to do it Biblically & authentically.

3) What is prophetic activity?

- a. Prophecy is hearing from God and speaking to people what you hear.
- b. It is speaking in order to strengthen, encourage and comfort others. See **Slide 12**
- c. 1 Corinthians 12:31 tells us to ‘earnestly desire or ‘zealously lust’ (Greek) after spiritual gifts’. Why? Because they represent ‘thin-places’ where heavenly light breaks through earth’s veil to help people to open the eyes of their hearts.
- d. An example is Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4.
- e. **The nature of prophetic activity** ~ Receiving and ***flowing*** in: Words of Knowledge; Words of Wisdom; Discerning of spirits and the Gift of Prophecy ~ ‘Prophetic Gifts’.
- f. 1 Corinthians 14:31 indicates that we can all prophesy. See **Slide 13**
- g. God mainly speaks through His written Word. That is why we must read it diligently and have it within us so that He can access it in a given moment.
- h. However, He also speaks in other – sometimes, unusual ways and this is one of the main reasons why many people feel that they cannot hear His voice. He is the Creator and is therefore a creative communicator.
- i. We need to learn how to be still and expectant enough to tune in and become sensitive to receiving His thoughts and impressions.
- j. A prophetic communication should have 3 components to it: See **Slide 14**

Interactive small group questions

1. *Share your experiences of: a) how you have been prophetically ministered to in the past and b) how you have ministered to other people in the past. What was it like?*
2. *Take it in turns to receive an encouraging comment from each member of the group. (That is, in faith be ready to tell any of the people in the group something you have observed about them that will encourage them).*
3. *What potential blessings and dangers do you think this type of ministry activity carries for churches and/or small groups?*
4. *Why do you think many churches tend to avoid creating opportunities that release their people into prophetic activity?*

1) Introduction: Levels of Revelation:

- a. Revelation can come in varying degrees of objectivity and levels of order & authority.
- b. They include: mental or spiritual impressions and perceptions; the still small voice of God that we hear in our spirit; words of knowledge and wisdom; internal visions and dreams. Each can be very useful ways in which the Lord speaks to us.
- c. The less subjective the way in which a revelation comes, the more convincing it is.
- d. For the purpose of this Caleb Course, we will focus upon the more common forms of prophetic revelation.

2) Prophetic Impressions

- a. These are the simplest and most common forms of hearing from the Lord.
- b. They are often missed because of general misunderstanding or scepticism in the Church concerning the prophetic being dismissed or discounted as stray thoughts or coincidences.
- c. They involve impressions that come from the Holy Spirit to our spirit and then to our mind and often concern people; E.g: an issue about someone is suddenly impressed upon your mind. This can include a word of encouragement, comfort or loving concern for them; to do something for them etc.
- d. Sometimes you can look at a person and get an impression from God about them. Jesus did this often. See **Slides 15**
- e. Such prophetic revelations are absolutely invaluable. In such ways, the Lord can use us to love people in ways we could never imagine. See **Slide 16**
- f. Most impressions are experienced in our mind and come from our spirit. However, there are times when the Lord may use a bodily or emotional sensation to convey His heart's desire for someone.
- g. This may come in the form of a pain in your own body or a feeling of grief, sorrow, guilt, shame etc. for someone we may not know as we 'look at them'. Ministry can then be streamlined to their need with dramatic results.
- h. Other times you may feel a sense of joy for someone who you can bring assurance to.
- i. There are obvious dangers. Checks and balances are needed. This level of revelation can be subjective, having the potential to be just an over-active imagination.
- j. Being accountable and testing your impressions is always necessary, but balance this with boldness otherwise, you'll become afflicted with 'analysis paralysis' and miss it.

3) The Still Small Voice of God

- a. This represents the soft, gentle voice of God, which Elijah heard from God (1Kings 19) that stirred him to action. It comes to us as we wait on the Lord in prayer, speaking in tongues; meditating. It can be a form of privately prophesying to our selves.
- b. It is given for personal wisdom, instruction, direction and encouragement.
- c. It is highly subjective since it comes internally and quietly so must be judged in the light of the faith desires of your own heart. Again, accountability is important.

4) Words of knowledge or the Internal 'audible' Voice of God

- a. This is a higher level of revelation because it is less subjective in nature.
- b. It is given as fresh or unknown insight/ knowledge about someone's past or present that only they and God could know about. *[Examples can include receiving a strong communication from God about a person you are ministering to in the Spirit.]*
- c. It is experienced as a crystal clear inner voice, that doesn't come from our thoughts, but which cuts through and interrupts them, appearing to come 'out of the blue'.
- d. Although not really audible, it appears to be so because it resounds so loudly and clearly within us.

5) Wisdom pictures or glimpses in the spirit and visions

- a. They vary in degree of subjectivity but all are experienced to inform someone or yourself about a present or future issue.
- b. Visions contain a story line that you have to 'watch' as it plays out. They are usually of a higher level of revelation than wisdom pictures and carry a greater weight of authority.
- c. They must be carefully interpreted to be of any value.
- d. This was a common way God spoke to prophets in the Old Testament (Ezekiel; Joel etc); but also is a means in the New Testament (Acts 2:17 re Joel's prophecy).

6) Dreams

Prophetic dreams can be literal or symbolic in nature. They are given for direction and revelation concerning future events.

A) Whole group activity ~ See Slide 16

1) Keys to Hearing God and Interpreting His revelations accurately

- a. If you've never been baptised in the Holy Spirit, receive prayer to be so baptised.
- b. Meditate daily in the Word of God, expecting to 'hear' His voice.
- c. Develop a dynamic, intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit through daily 'expectation-encounter' times.
- d. Intercede for people, thereby becoming spiritually full and expectant.
- e. Realise that you are only a beginner and remain accountable, teachable, open to correction, hungry for more of the Lord and a humble servant. Phil. 3:10
- f. Our lives as well as our mouths should be a prophecy of the grace of God.

2) What will be the results of us using them?

- a. You will develop a dynamic dialoguing, love relationship with the Father.
- b. You will become a channel of blessing direct from the heart of God for others – both in and outside of your church.
- c. You will become led by the Spirit and thus gain a conviction, passion and authority that is convincing and influencing.
- d. Jesus' love flows through His Body at an accelerated pace through many people, healing, delivering, equipping and releasing His ministers into fruitful service.
- e. The glory of the Lord is displayed in His temple as people come under a strong sense that 'God is here'.

3) A few common myths and dangers re exercising prophetic gifts.

Some people say:

- a. 'We don't need the gifts, just the fruit.'
- b. 'Asking for spiritual gifts opens us to demonic deception.'
- c. 'Only a few special people are called to prophesy.'

Some dangers to avoid:

- a. 'Prophesying' grandiose or ultra-positive predictions over someone because you like them, fancy them, feel sorry for them, want to appear the 'man/woman of God' etc.
- b. Prophetic activity that contradicts the principles of Scripture.
- c. Prophetic activity will never replace the need for teaching; Bible study; intercession; discipling; being accountable, etc. All these things are vital for you to use the eyes of your heart truthfully and effectively.
- d. Becoming soulish and weird or spiritually proud and puffed up by many revelations.
- e. Feeling superior to a point whereby you feel the need to become super-spiritually detached and/or independent from normal people and living.

4) What contexts can we use these visions, dreams, words of knowledge and wisdom?

- a. Virtually any context because where you go, the Holy Spirit goes with you.
- b. Cell group meetings are an excellent place to start but be prepared for mentoring corrections from those you are accountable to.
- c. Consider asking the Lord to give you words to use when witnessing to people.

- d. In your ministry of witnessing to people; praying for them and when preaching. Through such prophetic words, God brings His perspective and directives.
- e. In your devotional time - journal what the Lord is saying to you.

Whole group feedback

- Have you found the Module helpful? If so in what ways?
- Would anyone like to describe in what way it has changed your thinking and how this might now affect you as a Christian?

Assessment Criteria 2:1 Assignment

- 1) Pray and meditate before the Lord for as long as needed to receive at least ONE of the following:
 - a. A word of knowledge for someone you don't know very well in the church.
 - b. A wisdom picture for someone in the church that you don't know very well.
 - c. A prophetic impression for a work colleague that will encourage, build up or comfort them.
- 2) Write it down then consider if it would be wise to first share this with your church leader.
- 3) Deliver it to the relevant person ASAP.
- 4) Write an account of your experience and the outcome of sharing your word with someone. Use a pseudonym or pronouns to protect privacy.
