

THE PROPHETIC REALM SERIES

FOUR LEVELS OF THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

We will now look at the four degrees in which prophecy can work. The four levels talk about the different strength that He can move in. The four degrees talk about the different depths or heights in which He can reveal.

Lets look at Acts 2 where Peter prophesied about the coming of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh as from the time of the day of Pentecost. It says some interesting things here in Acts 2:7 onwards. It says, *"It shall come to pass in the last days, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your young man shall see vision. Your old man shall dream dreams."* That particular verse there *your young man shall see vision and old man shall dream dreams* has been a common experience in the lives of many Charismatic Christians and dreams and visions are some of the side effects of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

But there are a few things there that sometimes cause people to be puzzled because a lot of young men are dreaming and a lot of old men are seeing visions. So some of the young men are wondering whether they have grown old. Why did God use such a statement? But there is a certain Greek word here that is found in Acts 2. *Old men shall dream dreams* - the word *dreams* here is not the normal Greek word for dream. The normal Greek word for dreams is the word *onar*. That is the word used in Matthew where it says that the Joseph dreamt a dream and he saw this angel coming to him and telling him to receive Mary as his wife. And that same angel appeared several times in the dream telling him to move into Egypt and then come out from Egypt and then go to a different place. That word dream is the normal

Greek word *onar*. But here the Greek word for dreams is from a special Greek word that is not used elsewhere except in the book of Jude. And it is the Greek word *enupnion* is used twice, once in its verb form one in its noun.

If you research into the word *enupnion* it tells you that it can include something that you received in a state of sleep. But it has a further meaning of a perception that you received usually in sleep but not necessarily always. Even in the way it is used in the negative sense in the book of Jude about those filthy dreamers. Jude 8 *Likewise these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.* He is not talking about those dreamers who were sleeping. They were not in the state of sleep. These people were having a sort of false perception. In the book of Jude it is used in a negative sense. Now here the word *dreamers* is not used in reference of somebody sleeping. It is used to describe somebody who is so self deluded that they are walking in a dream-like state. They are fully conscious and not asleep but their minds are taken up by a strong delusion. They are firmly convinced of something that is immorally wrong against God's commandments. Something that is unrighteous and unholy.

In the previous message we talked about unrighteousness and holiness which a lot of Christians don't realize the difference. But here is a group of filthy dreamers who were deluded and whose minds are so deceived that they possibly see black as white and white as black. They can't tell the difference between right and wrong. And they are going against God and they are falling away from God without realizing the extent of the gravity of their sin. So this word *enupnion* is a specialized Greek word and is used only these two times in the New Testament.

With that basic understanding as you examine it in the book of Acts 2. We realize that the Holy Spirit is talking about something else other than the normal word *onar* or dreams. And as I researched further into this word and this text, I realize here that the word *young men* and *old men* may not necessary talk about physical age. I would have no problems if you interpret it for those of physical age. But what we want is not to miss out any possible interpretation that is there. Just like in the book of First John when apostle John talks about little children, young men and fathers, you could interpret that to be just physical children, physical young men and physical old men. However the scripture also does gives you the contextual

interpretation that those could represent spiritual age. In the same way of interpreting the bible we see in Acts 2 that the word young man and old man can refer to a sort of spiritual development and spiritual growth in God.

We know that John the apostle also refer to himself as John the aged. He is physically old but more than that he also grew in spiritual age. There is something about spiritual age that we need to take note of: spiritual age is not just measured in physical chronological time. It does not mean that if you came to know Christ about twenty years ago, therefore now you are twenty years old as a Christian. Spiritually speaking it is not necessarily so. If you came to know God twenty years ago, but out of the twenty years you lived only five years with God and fifteen years with the devil. You didn't live your life right with God and are falling into sin and repenting and give and take the total number of your years that you lived for God came up to about five years. Then although you were twenty years in chronological age since the time you met Christ, in your spiritual age you are only five years as a Christian.

The bible tells us to number our days to redeem the time. Why does it tell us to redeem the time? Because the time is given to everybody and you need to redeem it by living it for God, using it for God. Then when you live it for God and use it for God, it gets credited in God's chronological time span. But if you don't live it for God it is blotted out through the Blood of Jesus Christ. So when you get to heaven and you have a videotape replay of your life, you may think that the videotape would be very long. At the beginning you see yourself accepting Christ and then at the ending you see how you died. You ask God what happened to the in between time. God said it all got edited away. It has been cleansed and blotted by the Blood of Jesus when you repented. You will be in for a surprise that the number of years that you live for God was so short. So that gives encouragement for each one of us here that when we are born again, it matters how much we live for God day by day. That is our true spiritual growth. If you have lived twenty for God then you have grown spiritually. So we are talking about spiritual growth here, spiritual age that God can speak about.

First Degree: Revelation Content

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We are talking about four degrees of the Spirit of prophecy. The first degree is its revelation content in terms of the word of wisdom or the word of knowledge. See the Spirit of prophecy can be at its lowest level just to comfort, exhort and edify. It has no word of wisdom or predictive nature involved. The first level has the predictive nature coming into the Spirit of prophecy in the seed form method. In other words you could have entitled this tape 'how to predict or tell the future'. I know it sounds very controversial when you get to understand the true essence of the message by its title. The world is looking for prediction of future. The world has turned to astrologers, occult and all kinds of unscriptural methods in order to know the future.

Astrology is a billion dollars business. Why do people pay all this money to know the future? It is because it is important to them. I am not telling about Christian fortune telling where a Christian could get into this thing and open a shop that says your future foretold. You are not supposed to do that. But let us not forget the verse that Jesus gave us in the gospel of John where He talks about the Holy Spirit coming down. And virtually every one of us if you were to plan your life in God, you will need some sort of understanding of perception of what your future is. How can you plan your life in God unless you sort of perceive what your future life is like? So every one of us deals with the future all the time. And according to our perception of the future we organize our life in God. I believe in having a state of order. I don't believe in living in a confused state and say I don't know my future. I am just living day by day. It sounds very spiritual but it is not the way God wants us to live our life. God expects us to plan our life in Him, in dependence upon Him. Not in dependence on ourselves. But it doesn't remove the responsibility of living a planned life in God.

The gospel of John is speaking about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13. It says, *"When He the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth and He will not speak on His own authority but whatever He hears He will speak. And He will tell you things to come."* Now it is very clear that one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to warn us and to tell us things to come. Why does He need to do that to us? It is because we have an enemy whom we must also confront. And God knows more than the enemy. So God will warn us before hand so that we could prepare our lives and He will

reveal. The reason for the Holy Spirit giving visions and *enupnion* is so that we could perceive what He wants us to do. I am talking about His future for us and not our future for ourselves. Somehow or other God will have to reveal to us the things to come so that we could prepare ourselves for what He wants. So it is scriptural to deal with things that we are talking about in the Spirit of prophecy when it deals with its predictive nature, not only in its forth telling but in its foretelling. And because it has been misused and abused of what we call foretelling, people have just avoided that subject and concentrated on forth telling. Then to be balanced we need to cover both forth telling and foretelling.

In the Hebrew Old Testament there are actually two types of prophets. There is one that is used in the Hebrew word *Nabi* which means one who has a flowing of words in his life. The other is the word *Ro'eh* and that is the word seer or visionary. You will notice that certain prophets are just purely *Ro'eh*. Certain prophets are purely *Nabi*. Certain prophets are both *Nabi* and *Ro'eh*. The *Ro'eh* types are those that deal a lot with visions. And what they give forth are in vision form. And you see a number of them in the minor prophets. Then there are others who have a lot of words. They are giving words and there are others of them which function in both realms in visions and in words. God speaks to His people in visions in order to reveal the future.

So we could as easily say the Christian way of knowing your future or how to tell the future. The first is what I call the seed form method or *enupnion*, which is a perception that comes as a result of your spiritual growth and perception in God. Notice that Acts 2 says *old men shall enupnion*. What are some examples of that? You will notice that in the Old Testament several times whenever one of those old patriarchs was about to go home, they have an uncanny ability to prophesy. Have you ever notice that? As they were giving the last blessings to their next generation, they move into what I call a prophetic utterance. How did they do it? It is *enupnion* that the old man is perceiving. The emphasis is more on perception than on just sleeping. See the word *dreams* places a strong emphasis on sleeping.

Lets look at some examples here in the book of Genesis and we see some of these old men *enupnion* or perception or move into the lowest level of prophetic utterance that comes as a result of spiritual age. In Genesis 48: 8 Jacob whose name is also

Israel is now old. He had known the Lord to a certain extent. His life was full of sorrow but some of them were full of joy. And he has walked with God some way and he has grown in God. Now all his children are in the land of Egypt. And Joseph was ruler over that area and Israel was about to die. He was a well-respected man. He was an old man not only in the natural but also in the spiritual. See although we talk about spiritual age. If all things are equal and every body live their lives for God using all natural years that they have, then naturally the older a person is, the more perception they would have compared to a younger person.

In Genesis 48:8 as Israel saw Joseph's sons, *Joseph said to his father these are my sons whom God has given me in this place. And he said please bring them to me and I will bless them.* Notice what he wants to do is pray a prayer of blessings on their lives. In verse ten, *the eyes of Israel were dimmed with age so that he could not see. And as Joseph brought them near him, he kissed them and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph I have not thought to see your face but in fact God has also shown me your offsprings.* Then in verse thirteen and fourteen, Israel stretched out his hands. He crossed them and he began to bless them. It says here in verse fourteen he stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head who was the younger and his left hand on Manasseh's head guiding his hands knowingly. For Manasseh was the first born. And basically what he did was that he put a stronger blessing on Ephraim who was younger and the smaller blessings on Manasseh who was the older. And Joseph was displeased because this was not normally done.

But what Jacob did was in his prophetic utterance, he was moving in the area of prophetic blessing where he sensed in God that there was going to be something coming strong out of Ephraim. He gave him the blessings of his right hand. And to Manasseh he gave the blessings of his left hand. And he predicted just by looking at them what was to come in the years to come. And he says here in verse seventeen, *when Joseph saw that his father had his right hand on the head of Ephraim. It displeased him so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.* In verse eighteen, *Joseph said not so my father this one is the firstborn.* Then verse nineteen, *his father refused and said I know my son I know.* He says its because he perceived in the spirit of prophecy. In verse nineteen he says, *he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. But truly his younger brother shall be greater then he. And his descendants shall become a multitude of nation.*

Now that is a prediction. You will classify that normally under the word of wisdom, a prophecy of things to come. But here the way it came into being is interesting. It was at the point of Israel home going. He tapped on what I would call *enupnion*. Where as a result of a person's spiritual age and growth in God, a person could move into that first degree of the Spirit of prophecy and begin to perceive and predict based on their spiritual growth in God and their ability to see further than those of his younger generation. Usually the natural also is there.

If you think about it if all things are equal, those who are ahead of us and older than us spiritually and in the natural, they would be able naturally and spiritually to see more than we can see. Now what kind of thing shall we classify it? We classify it as an *enupnion*. It is a perception that comes when the Spirit of prophecy comes on an old man in the Lord. They shall dream dreams. They shall be able to receive a strong perception. It may be in sleep, it may not be in sleep. But they shall receive a perception. That is as a result of their stature in God. Then we see other things that happened in chapter 49. Israel or Jacob was also able to move in the Spirit of prophecy and predict the other things that will happen to all his other children.

Now the way he goes about it is interesting. Like I said a seed form prediction is based on the ability of a person to tell from the seed what is to come. For example if you see a durian seed you will recognize it. And if I were to give you a durian seed and say tell me what kind of tree this will look like. Will it be six feet tall, twenty feet tall or thirty feet tall. You will be able to tell me that the average durian tree is about thirty feet tall and bears thorny fruit which has a tremendous taste. From that seed you could tell something. And the more expert you are as a botanist the more you could tell just from the seed above the average person what kind of plant it will be. This is what I call the seed form ability.

Now the seed form ability comes into a person's natural life who is very experienced in life and with children. You could tell that some of your children lean towards the mechanical side, some lean towards the artistic side. Even though you say I want you to be a doctor, your child says no I want to be an artist. They have what I call an inner inclination that causes them to be good in different things. A person may have F in all his drawings but he has A in mathematics. The other child

may have F in mathematics and A in drawings. So there is an inclination that you could see that from the way a child performs and the way they are, you are able to tell from what I call seed form their future.

As you walk pass any high security area, the guards look at your features and the way you walk. They don't have time to check on everybody. But they will pick and check at random. One of the things they are trained is to spot a criminal's face. We sometimes can tell criminals by their faces. After many years of crime it gets on their face. People could tell by the hardness or gentleness on their face. See there is a seed form that people recognize. So in the same way we are talking about spiritual area here. There is a seed form where you could recognize certain things.

In Genesis 49 as Jacob was predicting the future of his sons. He is using the seed form method. In verse three, *Reuben you are my first born, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water you shall not excel because you went up to your father's bed. Then you defiled it.* Now it looks as if he was cursing Reuben for something that Reuben did in his past. But this is supposed to be the blessing not a curse. But what happened was he moved into what I call the first degree of the Spirit of prophecy. He is saying Reuben you are unstable I know you. And this is what your future will be like Reuben. See he is predicting based on the seed form. And some of things he quoted were from the life of his sons.

He says in verse five *Simeon and Levi my brothers are instruments of cruelty. In their anger they slew a man. In their self will they hamstring an ox.* In other words these were real tough children. And so Jacob as he saw them growing through his maturity and through his walk in God and by virtue of his age, he could tell their future to a certain extent. Now these things are not just natural. There are a lot of people who try to use the natural and they sort of boxed you in and said you will never change. The rest of your life you will always be like that. That would be a curse but here it so happened that there is a spiritual prediction on that. I am not talking about boxing people into their past. But rather the evidence of their nature and their inclination comes forth through their whole life. And that gives you a seed form prediction on their future.

Now there are some prediction that there is no way in the natural you could tell. Like verse 20, *bread from Asher shall be rich and he shall yield royal dainties*. But nothing is recorded of his past. So if there is nothing recorded we can take it that Jacob had no evidence but somehow under the Spirit of prophecy in the first degree, he was able to tell his children what their future is like. He moved in the Spirit of prophecy in the first degree called *enupnion*. Whatever we do and whatever we say is a reflection of what is in our heart.

Lets look over to the book of II Kings 13:14-20 *Elisha had become sick with an illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "My father, my father the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them." Then he said, "Take the arrow"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then you would have struck Syria till you have destroyed it. But now you will strike Syria only three times." Then Elisha died.*

Now notice what happened here. There is a seed form Spirit of prophecy involved. And he gave the king of Israel a clue. He says take the arrow and shoot the arrow of deliverance of the Lord against the Syrians. Then he says take all your arrows. Now struck them on the ground. This old man was lying down and said to the king to strike the arrows on the ground. The king only struck three times. Elisha says you have should struck them until the arrows are broken. Because you didn't do that you only strike them three times.

What happened is this. What is in the heart comes out in action. See he already gave the king a warning. Supposing under a prophetic anointing you were given the object and the prophet has given you the warning. He says this object represent

satan. And he said do something about it. And under the Spirit of prophecy you take it and kiss the object. It doesn't mean that when you start kissing the object that is the time only that you are going to do that. No. But how you relate to that object shows your strength of your hatred for the devil. It was already in the heart. Remember that. That was only something to bring it out. And so that object is given to you and you are told that it represents the devil. Now do something against it. You take it and you give it a little spanking. If a man of God like Elisha were there he would have scolded you. That's not the way to treat the devil. He needs more than a spanking. How you treat it shows the extent of your hatred against the devil.

The king of Israel already had something in his heart. And in that moment under an anointing the man of God was just bringing forth what was in his heart. He already gave him a warning by saying that arrow now under this anointing represents the Syrians. And he told him take those arrows and strike them on the ground. I don't know what the king of Israel was thinking. He should have a stronger attitude against them. Then he could have victory. That shows that under the anointing he will never be able to excel.

Those of us who are experienced in the ministry for many years, when we relate to a younger person coming up in the ministry will be able to pick up whether this person is going to succeed by their dedication to God, by their fervor for God, by their love for people, by their ability to relate. You could tell to a certain extend just by virtue of your experience of those years you have been in God. This form of thing when it is under the anointing and under the unction of the Holy Spirit is called the first degree the *enupnion*. They shall dream dreams. Then as you walk in God in the Spirit of prophecy you could move into the second degree.

Second Degree: Mysteries and Enigmas

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The second degree of the Spirit of prophecy is what I call mysteries and enigmas. The book of Numbers 12 In this particular case Miriam and Aaron were having a problem with Moses. It was a personal problem. But they brought it into the

spiritual region. In Numbers 12 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses. In verse 2, they said, *"Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses; has He not also spoken through us also? And the Lord heard it. The man Moses was very humble more than all men who were on the face of the earth. Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam. Come out you three to the tabernacle of meeting. So the three came out. In verse 6, The Lord said if there is a prophet among you I the Lord make myself know to him in a vision and I speak to him in a dream. Not so with my servant Moses he is faithful in all my house. I speak with him face to face even plainly and not in dark sayings. And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses. The interesting this is that the Lord reveals in verse 8 that He will speak to Moses face to face. And He says not in dark saying or enigmas or mysteries. But he says in verse 5 that He will reveal Himself to the prophets in vision and in dreams.*

That is the second degree in which the Spirit of prophecy in its predictive ability can come to a person. It comes in parables, pictures or things that are mysterious and need a further interpretation. Now these things constantly happen to the Old Testament prophets. They constantly receive things that they don't understand and need to pray for more wisdom and understanding. There are a lot of mysteries they have received which are prophecies of the future.

In the book of Daniel 7:2 *Daniel said, " I saw in my vision by night; and behold the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.* Now when he says the vision by night you must understand that in the Old Testament and in the bible understanding a dream is also called a vision by night. There can be three types of dreams that you can classify it into. A prophet is sometimes called like in Deut. 13 a dreamer of dreams. So there are three types of dreams. First, there are dreams that have nothing to do with the spiritual area. They are purely natural. So not all your dreams are prophetic. Turn to the book of Ecclesiastes 5:3, *for a dream comes through much activities and a fool's voice is known by his many words.* So number one your dream can come because of your activity. So those dreams are not necessarily from God.

Secondly, a dream can be a disturbance from the devil. These are demonic oppressions that try to affect your dreams. And a lot of times they are quite common to the unbeliever. And to the believer as long as you do not fall into sin

they do not occur. As a born again believer you should never have. As long as you have no sin in your life, your conscience is clean, that kind of dream will never disturb you. But when you have given in to sin and you have compromise your conscience it opens a door for disturbance in your sleep life. So that is the second category that is demonic activity.

But the third we recognize is that it can come from God. Not all dreams come from God just like our thought life. Not all our thoughts are from God. Some of our thoughts are from the enemy. He tries to implant wrong thoughts, evil thoughts, filthy thoughts into our mind which we should reject. Or our thoughts can come from our own initiation. Or our thoughts can be the soft still voice of the Holy Spirit coming into our spirit and being interpreted as thoughts to our mind. So there can be those three realms we must be aware of that.

And there is a category of dream that can be directly from God as we read in Matthew 1 how Joseph had this encounter with an angel. Lets turn to the book of Job 33. This is a statement made by Elihu. If you notice the three friends of Job, when God rebuked them He didn't rebuke Elihu. In Job 33:14-16 *For God may speak in one way or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in the vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.* Notice that the bible treats the third category dreams as those from God as a vision of the night.

Dan. 7:2 *Daniel said I saw in my vision by night.* And you notice in verse one that actually it was a dream. I have given you enough scriptures to show and prove to you that the word dream and the word vision of the night are use interchangeably in the bible. But you must understand it is the third category of dream. And here he says *I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts came out from the sea each different from the other. The first was like a lion and had eagle's wings. Then as I looked, its wings were plucked off and it was lifted from the ground and made to stand upon two feet like a man and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side, it has three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told , 'Arise, devour much flesh'. He goes on and then he sees this third and fourth beast.* In verse seven, *After this I*

saw in my night visions, and behold a fourth beast, terrible and dreadful and exceeding strong. Then he goes on after he sees all these things. In verse fifteen, I, Daniel, my spirit within my body and the visions of my head troubled me.

Do you notice that under the second degree you can receive a prophecy that comes in mysteries and enigmas? Like God says in Numbers chapter 12. He says that if there were prophets He will speak to them by visions, by dark sayings that are enigmas and mysteries. So the second degree of the Spirit of prophecy is quite interesting realm by itself. It is the primary realm in which a prophet functions. He speaks words that he himself doesn't understand. Sometimes they search in themselves what those words are talking about. They speak words that God gave it to them and they just utter it forth.

David uttered those words in Psalms 22 *My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me.* It could be what I call the dual type prophecy describing those things actually occurring in his life. And then as he spoke it in a song, it pointed to the suffering Messiah. It is just like Isaac and Abraham. It was an actual incident. And the tension and the emotional sacrifice that was involved was real to Abraham. Yet that became a prophecy about God sending His Son for the sacrifice of the world. And in the same way with the interpretation of the book of Revelations of the seven churches, they were real actual churches. And there were more than seven churches at that time. But God picked them at random because they point in a prophetic way to the last days. So in the same way we see the dual prophecies coming forth. And here in this form of enigmas and mysteries a figurative prophecy is the second degree. And they are very hard to deal with because they need a lot of interpretations.

And under this second degree we need to break it down a little bit. To receive a prophecy of the second degree is one thing. To receive its interpretation is another. You could easily misinterpret an allegorical prophecy. Sometimes a word from God is true and real but its interpretation is wrong. And if you get its interpretation wrong, you will get the wrong application. So we must get the reception correct. Don't take every dream to be from God. You have to check it with the scriptures first. And check within your own life whether there are some wrong things there that can affect your reception. If you could get pass all those stages and the reception is from God, then you still got some problems to deal with. You got the

second problem of interpretation. Then after the interpretation you still got another third problem, the third problem of application.

And so in the second degree Daniel was grieved. Notice the first area reception is not enough he needed interpretation. In verse 15 the visions troubled him. And he had to ask for an interpretation. He had to ask for an understanding. We need to realize that we got to search for the interpretation and pay as much price to tap into. You see the second degree has these three flavors. To tap in is one thing but you got to go in press further in to tap into the interpretation too. A lot of people run away with the first reception. They don't wait until the interpretation comes. They run off and they apply it wrongly.

Like the book of Judges they waited long enough for God to speak thoroughly to them. In the book of Judges where there was a civil war right at the ending. Judges 20, as all the men of Israel were fighting against the Benjaminites. The men of Israel came to God and they prayed. The thing is that they sought God in verse 18. The children of Israel arose and went up to the house of God to ask counsel of God. They said, "Which of us shall go up first to battle against the children of Benjamin." Then God said, "Judah shall go up first." So the children of Israel rose in the morning and came against Gibeah. Then the men of Israel went out to battle against Benjamin. And the men of Israel put themselves in battle array to fight against them at Gibeah. And the children of Benjamin came on at Gibeah and on that day cut down to the ground twenty two thousand men of the Israelites Now the question I ask is this. If God spoke to them why didn't they win? They did seek God. They ask God who is to go first. God said Judah. They had a reception. They didn't press further to find out from God. They were all ready for war. They were just waiting for the signal but not for the understanding. So when God said Judah before God could say anything else they ran out. Then they came back to God and ask what happened. And they say in the next verse 23 shall I go again God. In fact they were already waiting to go. Then God said go up against him. Before God could have said any other thing they have gone. This time 18 thousand people died. In verse 26 they really were troubled. It took the death of 40 thousand people before they wept they fasted, they offered burn offerings, now these were the things that were already required of them in the bible. They were supposed to do it everyday. Do you remember the commands of Moses? The Law of Moses required that burnt offerings everyday. They neglected all these things and then in a crisis quickly seek

God just like some Christians. The only time they ever fast is when they have no food. You talk about waiting on God four, five hours a day. They will never do it. They are too busy. But when a crisis strikes them, like perhaps in business, they are being sued on the left and right. They had no choice but to seek God because they have no natural help. Or perhaps Christians who don't want to serve God, or live for God and depend on themselves. One day an illness strikes them that they had no medical help and they were given six months to live. Then they start seeking God. It is sad but people still do that. Then now only they began to do those things that they should have done everyday. They didn't check themselves. Finally they give peace offerings, burn offerings and these were the final words they needed. In verse 28 "Shall I yet go out," they asked. And the Lord said, "Go out for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand." Now that is what they needed. They should have waited until the understanding and the interpretation of the battle was clear.

Do you know that before Joshua went out, God said I have given you this land. He didn't go out just because God says go forth. He went out only after he had received the battle in the spirit. You don't go out to do something in the natural until you have completed in the spiritual. You don't do half way and then go off. If you haven't received it in the spirit you can never receive it in the natural. If you haven't receive the victory in the spiritual you can never receive the victory in the natural. And they have never received the victory in the spiritual. Because they haven't waited long enough in God's presence for God to say I have given them to you. That is why the second area is important. When you have just a reception of a prophetic word from God, it is important to get into God and understand the full significance of what He is trying to say to you. Get the interpretation and the understanding clear before you go into application. Some people bypass the interpretation so that from the reception straightaway they go to the application. They don't have an in between process where they continue to wait and seek God for clarification and interpretation. So they always miss God all the time.

In the book of Acts 21:3 you see a group of people who met Paul in the city of Tyre. When they landed there in verse 4 *finding disciples we stayed there 7 days*. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. Now notice here that what they said was from the Spirit but how they applied it was not from the Spirit. It tells you by the capital S that they signified by the Spirit. I would gather that what this disciple sensed was that Paul 's life was in danger. What is the natural reaction to

danger? Avoid it and flee from it. So the spiritual reception was polluted by natural interpretation. And therefore it ended up with a wrong application. But do you know that Paul was not affected at all. Why because Paul already knew in his spirit what he was supposed to do. In Acts 20:22-23 *I go bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem not knowing the things that will happen to me there except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city saying that the chains and tribulations await me.* Paul already knows that he must go to Jerusalem. That's number one. Paul already knows that there was great danger on this trip to Jerusalem. And he was prepared for it. Now when the prophecy came to his life and said Paul don't go. What they did was they gave the reception, interpretation and application together.

If you move into the second degree if you don't have the interpretation you should learn how to stop. A lot of beginners moving into the Spirit of prophecy give the reception, saying, "I see this; I see that" and then they move into the interpretation. They say, "This means this for you; this means that for you." Then they move into application. "You must do this you must do that." If you receive the second degree prophecy, you have to check yourself. If God only give you the reception stop there. If God gives you reception and interpretation, stop there. You are not supposed to apply it. But if God gives you the reception, the interpretation and the application, then you can give all three. But learn to stop when the Spirit says to stop. Some people only have accelerators and no brakes. When they start prophesying they go all out. At first it was good then after some time they end up with their own ideas coming in. So some people end up trying to preach through their prophecy.

If a pastor comes to you and say I prophesy that God wants you to be in my church. Or I prophesy that you are going to give me this amount of money. That is not a prophet's ministry. They interpret prophet for profit. That is not the Spirit of prophecy. That is spiritual conmanship. It is manipulation clothed in a spiritual covering. It doesn't matter if the person reveal where you keep your purse. Or how much you have. Because it is spiritual intimation and God doesn't want us to put up with that. And that is why we need to understand that there are something that God didn't say that we cannot simply say thus says the Lord. God's name will be affected.

And involved in this second degree we need to understand the spiritual principles of spirit perception and Holy Ghost saying. There is a difference between the human spirit and the Holy Spirit. We must know the difference when we move into this area.

In Acts 21 here was a group of people who prophesied by the Spirit. They got the correct reception. But they got the interpretation and the application wrong. Acts 21:10-11 Agabus the prophet came he prophesied about Paul all those things that were going to happen in verse 11. The prophecy was beautiful. The thing I admire about Agabus is this. He didn't interpret nor did he apply. He learnt to stop when the Holy Ghost says stop. All he did was deliver the prophecy. And he left the business of interpretation and application to the person concerned. He minded his own business. Look at verse 12 the others around him including Luke misinterpreted the prophecy. They took that prophecy as a warning rather than a confirmation. A New Testament prophet or ministry of prophecy cannot lead any more. They have lost their authority in the New Testament to lead. They are now supposed to only confirm. If you receive a prophecy that doesn't confirm anything, put it on the shelf first if it is good. If it is bad, doesn't comfort, exhort and edify drop it off. We are not led by the prophecy. If you are led by prophecy you get into trouble. We are led the Holy Spirit inside us. And Paul sought confirmation. That is why those of us who move into the Spirit of prophecy and predictive, we must be very cautious and careful. Sometimes when God reveals something to you and you sensed it that the other person haven't heard it yet, you should have the patience to wait. The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. That is why if you have received a prophecy you must wait your turn. So it is important to understand the difference between emotional zeal and spiritual power. Noisy is not necessary powerful.

So here we have the wrong interpretation given by his own people because they have an emotional bonding to Paul. They don't want his life to be in danger. And they applied it wrongly. They even persuaded him not to go. And they were crying and weeping holding on to Paul's hands. Paul had to tell them you are breaking my heart. He says I am prepared to die I must go. He was not moved at all. Some people take this that Paul was moving out of God's will. They were wrong about it. Because later on in chapter 23:11 The Lord appeared to Paul and confirm his position and tell him later he will go on to Rome. So he was moving within God's

will. So here we must differentiate between the reception, the interpretation and the application in order to move correctly into the second degree. Remember we need as much prayer to get into interpretation as much as to receive.

Even if it is a vision it is the same thing. If it is an allegory like for example Acts 10. Peter has an allegorical vision regarding the gentiles. And it tells us here that while he was hungry and praying in verse 9. And in verse 11 *he saw heaven open and an object like a great sheet bound on the four corners descending to him and let down to the earth. In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things and birds of the air. And a voice came to him and said, rise Peter kill and eat. Not so Lord he says.* And three times it happened in verse 16, the voice that says, "*Peter rise, kill and eat.*" In verse 17 do you notice Peter did not understand the interpretation. He received a prophecy. He received that vision but he didn't have the interpretation. It was later on that he understood the interpretation. Later on when these gentiles came in verse 19 there were three men, three visions, three men in verse 19, *three men are seeking you.* If he puts two and two together he would have realized that the three visions were about the gentiles, three men here, God says to go with them. Peter had better interpret properly because the other part of the vision says *rise, kill and eat.* So even the words in a vision need interpretation. The words *rise, kill and eat* actually means *rise, go and harvest.* So we must be careful as we operate in the Spirit of prophecy to realize how much interpretation plays a role. And that is the primary area that causes the prophetic movement to fall into disregard and to lose its dignity in the body of Christ.

A lot of people are against it not because they are really anti prophecy but because of the abuses and the misuses of prophecy. People use it to control people's life. People use it to manipulate others. People use it to their own selfish gain. But there is a genuine gift that we want to really have the body of Christ be blessed like Paul says lets us desire to prophesy. But we need to be balanced as we move into these areas so that we don't move into error. And the prime error I found is not so much as the reception side. A lot of error is in the interpretation side and subsequently it gets magnified in the application side. That is why a lot of people are side tracked, due to a wrong move in this second degree of the Spirit of prophecy, mysteries and enigmas.

Lets look at the book of I Peter for a moment. We see here in I Peter 1:10-11 *Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ was in them was indicating when he testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.* Now you notice what this Old Testament prophet did. They prophesied of things that they themselves don't fully understand. They don't fully understand the interpretation or the application. Some of them understood the interpretation but didn't know the application. They didn't know who is it for. So they are having struggles with the application. So here the Old Testament prophets received in part and they prophesied in part. Every prophet and every ministry of prophecy and every gift of prophecy, prophesied in part. And we know in part.

Nobody has everything. We are all one part of that member of that body of Christ. Nobody can claim that they have the last word for the church. Anybody who claims that has his or her head too big. There is no such thing as *the* prophet. Anybody who claims that has moved into error. There are a few man of God who has done that in the past. John Alexander Dowie at the turning point of the twentieth century claimed that he was *the* prophet. He was above the five-fold ministry prophetic office. In fact he was Elijah, started even to dress like him. He died. William Branham claimed to be the Elijah. He was a forerunner of the healing movement. But he was not Elijah. The problem with these people is that they don't know their bible very well. Elijah was a forerunner in terms of the Jewish dispensation. Not the gentile dispensation. The prophecies concerning the coming of Elijah have to do with the restoration of Israel in the time of the 70 years. At the beginning of that you find those restorative prophets coming again. The gentiles have their own system, the five-fold ministry, the nine ministries of believers, and the gift of the Holy Spirit etc. See these people don't know their bible. So they are taking the bible just because it makes them looks better and lends more authority. You don't need to claim spiritual authority by titles. Spiritual authority is not demanded. It is given. You can only receive it from people who are willing to submit to your life because of what they can see in your life.

So here is the Old Testament prophets they themselves didn't understand fully the interpretation or the application. And what did they do? They wanted to know more like Daniel and they sought God. And God revealed to them. If you ever seek God for the interpretation or application, you can be sure He will hear you if you

wait long enough to hear Him. A lot of people are impatient. They are more filled with natural zeal than spiritual zeal. Spiritual zeal is able to be harnessed and to be able to wait. But natural zeal will never allow itself to be harnessed in any form.

So here in I Peter 1:12 *To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - things which even angels desire to look upon.* So it tells us here that God did give them the truth of application as they sought God of what they were prophesying about. So we look at the second degree of the Spirit of prophecy is a whole big area by itself. The more you walk in God the higher degree you walk the more you could look into the things that are to come. That is why we are talking about degrees. Levels talk about strength of delivery and impact. Levels talk about the extent of your ministry. It could be a ministry of prophecy to one local body or to a nation or to the world. So the levels talk about your impact and your reach to people. The degrees talk about the height and the depth of the prophetic message that you are bringing forth. Both are related in some way. Now we want to look at the book of Numbers chapter 12. And we look at the third degree.

Third Degree: Plain Speaking

The third degree is powerful. As we look at Numbers 12:6 God was saying something else besides a prophet's ministry. Nu.12:6 *Hear now my words if there is a prophet among you I the Lord make myself know to him in a vision and I speak to him in a dream.* Verse 7 it says, *not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly and not in dark sayings.* God is saying Moses was more than a prophet. He says I don't speak to Moses just in allegory. Moses had developed a friendship with God that goes beyond his calling and his ministry. The third degree of moving into the Spirit of prophecy is what I call fellowship with God. Thank God for prophets, apostles, evangelist, pastors and teachers, different forms of ministry. But more than that we must be friends of God.

A lot of people are not friends of God. You know why. They are servants of God.

All those years Jesus walked with His disciples, He told them a lot of things. And He prepared them for the ministry. But in John 15 He told them you are no more my servants. They are still His servants. In John 15 He says you are my friends. And what is the quality of friendship that He is talking about. Look at John 15, *a friend speaks plainly and not in dark sayings*. The blessings of being a friend with God is moving into the third degree of the Spirit of prophecy. In Jn.15:14-15, *you are my friends if you do whatever I command you; no longer do I call you my servants. For a servant does not know what the master is doing*. In other words a servant can only carry the command without fully understanding. A servant can be obedient. He can carry the command right to the details. But the master is not obligated to tell the servant what he wants to do and how he wants to do it. He just tells you to do your part. It would be just like if you work for a company and you are just the office boy. Your job is to deliver the documents and do the banking. The directors are not obligated to tell you why they sent those documents to those places you go to. You could be banking in hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is not for you to ask how they are going to use the money. You just do your part and you send those slips in.

Jesus didn't just make them His friends. He made them His co-directors. He says I now ordain you. Come into the boardroom of My friends. And now you began to enter into the board meeting. And you are told the strategy of the company, the inner workings, and the future. And now as you begin to go back to some of those jobs, you could be sending an important document by going there. You not only deliver it. You know what you are after, where your company stands. There is a difference in relationship.

Jesus promoted them to friends. He says a servant doesn't know what the master does. And in verse 15 He says *but I have called you friends. For all things that I heard from my Father I have made known to you*. I will tell you secret things. I will tell you plainly and not just in allegory because you are now my friends. That was what God was talking about to Moses. God was saying Moses is more than a prophet. He was more than just being a servant. He was a prophet no doubt. He is My friend. I still speak to him as a prophet and he delivers message as a prophet. But God says I give him the extra information.

Do you know that Daniel also moved into that? Daniel was not just a prophet.

When the angel came to him, Gabriel says Daniel beloved of God. That word *beloved* in Hebrew is used for a very close friend. And you know what the angel came to bring. The angel came to bring more information; information that Daniel was entitled to not because he was a prophet but because he was a friend. And as a friend he asks, "God what does this mean?" He is not demanding it as a prophet but he was approaching God as a bosom friend.

Turn over to Genesis 18 and we will see something taking place in Abraham's life that has to do with this third degree of the Spirit of prophecy. Abraham was also a friend of God. We all know that God also called him a prophet. As God confronted Abimelech for taking Sarah, Abraham's wife into his harem, He said, "He is a prophet; ask him to pray for you." That is later on in chapter 20. In Gen.18 Abraham had just received God. God manifested Himself through His angels and he received God. And he was a host to God. In verse 16 *The men rose from there and looked toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?"* I know the bible says that God does not do anything except He will reveal it to His prophets first. But God revealed it to His prophets in enigmas and dark sayings. There is a higher form of revelation that God can bring in a closer manner. It says here shall I hide from Abraham what I am going. Notice what He is talking about here in verse 18...*since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation. And all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him for I have known him.* God says I have known him.

Abraham walked in the third dimension. He didn't just walk in *agathos* (or goodness); he didn't just walk in *dikaios* (or righteousness); he also walked in *hagios* (or holiness). That is why he became a friend of God. In verse 19 *I have known him in order that he may command his children and his household after him that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice.* That is second dimension we talked about last night. Do you know that God was not obligated to tell Abraham what He was doing? God enjoyed telling him what He was going to do because Abraham had a relationship with Him. And God could see into Abraham's heart and saw Abraham was a good man. God said, "Abraham, let Me tell you what I am going to do." And the way God talked to him in Gen. 18 is what many classified to be first class intercession. This is the realm we are talking about in third dimension. You know what the third dimension is. You are invited into the boardroom with God.

The boardroom is where the strategies are being planned. The boardroom is where you can bring out suggestions that can affect the plan. And Abraham was functioning as a board member. God says because of the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah He is going to destroy it. Abraham said, "God be merciful but please don't be angry. There is a principle in your word that you will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. God if there are 50 righteous people will you spare the city?" You know what Abraham was doing? He was in the boardroom with God. God said Abraham because of your proposal to the senior directors Father, Son and Holy Ghost we will consider it. If there 50 we will spare. Abraham said, "God what happens if there were 40." God said, "Abraham since you are a new board member we will spare it if there were 40 etc." Do you know if there were 10 there will still be Sodom and Gomorrah today. Archaeologist and bible scholars have researched to trace where Sodom and Gomorrah is today. And they have located that the very place where Sodom and Gomorrah is, is where the Dead Sea is today. The impact of the fire and brimstone coming down when God destroyed it was so great that today that is the lowest place on the earth.

Let me show you the secret of moving into this third degree. The secret can be found in the book of Exodus. The relationship that Moses had with God actually started from Exodus 33. The story is that Moses was with God receiving the Ten Commandments. He was there for 40 days and 40 nights. It tells you in verse 11 so the Lord spoke to Moses face to face. This is the first occurrence. So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. As we read that verse our question is how did he get there. It is found in chapter 32 what Moses did. In verse one, *When the people saw that Moses was delayed, the people gathered together and said, "Come let us make ourselves gods that shall go before us."* While they were doing that Moses was still on the mountain. And the Lord says in verse 7 *Go get down for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt had corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way. They have made themselves a molten calf and worshipped it; and sacrifice to it and said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt. God was angry. Verse 9 the Lord said I have seen these people, indeed a stiff-neck people. Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; but of you I will make a great nation.* Most people will say yes Lord and get out of the way. But Moses was not that kind.

How do you become a friend of God? How do you face an angry God? Number 1 Moses never thought of himself. He has perfectly died. Nobody can get close to God without dying to complete selfishness. Do you know why? Our God is selfless in everything He did for us. He thinks of us all the time. He loved us and He showed how much He loved us by even being willing to give His only begotten Son. He held back nothing to save us. The opposite of love in the bible is not hate. The opposite of love is self. Sin is sin nature with a capital I in between. All sin came from self. Satan fell because he sought his self-glorification. The average Christians in their prayers pray for their own needs. They seek first their kingdom and then the kingdom of God. Their Lord's prayer is *Father in heaven give me this day my daily bread*. And then the closing prayer is *for yours is the kingdom, the glory and the power forever and ever amen*. We have prayer requests and we have over night prayers. We use to have people write requests and 99% of those requests are, "God I need finances, I need healing, I need this I need that." God is looking for someone who will say, "God not my will but yours be done."

God offered Moses a new beginning starting with him. Moses said, "No. God." A lot of people would say yes but Moses said no. And he asked God to forgive His people. He didn't accept God's offer. That's No.1 to be a friend of God you be the most selfless possible. Some of you think it is easy. Let me tell you no human being has died this way to themselves. No ministry has died. There is a lot of selfishness that you can see sometimes in the ministry too. Self-preservation, self-promotion, self has not truly died and yet even the spiritual work is going on. It takes a lot to do die to self. Why is it so precious because one day when we stand face to face with our Lord Jesus Christ it will not be so much what you do for Him, how famous your are, how successful you are in this world, but the thing that will last is those things that you really did that was born out of God's love. There are a lot of things in the ministry that are done out of selfishness. I am sorry to say that they won't be recorded in the Book of Records. A lot of people waste their time doing things carnally. It is much better to be faithful to God in a remote area doing 100% of God's will than to fly all over the world doing what God didn't want you to do. No doubt some people will get blessed in your ministry as the gospel has its own power to bless. But the difference is your reward in heaven. This life is so short; eternity is so long. Go for those things that last. Don't be interested in just building your ministry. Be interested in doing God's will. If God ask you just to be faithful ministering in a certain area, be faithful. Because that is all God wants you to do. Leave the impact in the hands of God. That's No.1 to get into close friendship with

God.

No.2, how do you deal with an angry God? Bring His own words to Him. Exodus 32:13 *Moses came to God and said remember Abraham, Isaac, Israel, your servants and you sworn by your own self.* In other words how do you face a God who is angry? Remind Him of His promises. And Moses came to God and said God remember Your words, remember what You said. You see the first is to die to self and seek God's glory. That is what Moses did. Moses said, "What would the Egyptians say about you?" He was concerned about what others say about God. So we should not be concerned about what people say about us. We should be concerned about what people say about God. That is why some ministers come to the platform, take one hour to promote their ministry, collect huge offerings but share the gospel in just five minutes. All these affect the name of Jesus Christ. They are concerned for their own ministry more than they are concerned for the impact done in the name of Jesus.

No.2 he reminded God of His own promises and His own words. If you want to be a friend of God, Jesus already said that, if you do my commandments you are my friend. Anybody who says they love God and they want to be a friend of God better get acquainted with the living word. You cannot say that you love God if you don't love the bible. How you love the bible is a reflection on how you love God.

The third thing is very important. You will find here in the book of Exodus 33:17 - 18 *The Lord said I will also do this thing that you have spoken for you have found grace in my sight and I know you by name. And he says, "Please show me your glory."* Moses is not only a man who is selfless and seeks glory. Not did he love the word and remember God's covenant promises. But he was a man who spent a lot of time with God. Just cross reference to the book of Deuteronomy chapter 9. Any bible scholar who studies the life of Moses knows that Moses had two times forty days fast. The first time was when he received the 10 commandments for the first time. The second when received the second set of 10 commandments the second time. I want you to know here in chapter 9 that actually he fasted forty days and night three times. The first time is in chapter 9:11 *It came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.* That is the first time. The second time is found in verse 18 *after he came down and threw the tablets and broke*

them. This is something that is not recorded elsewhere. Deuteronomy is a book that gives you an inside story, just like the gospel of John in terms of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Why didn't Aaron die although he was guilty? Deuteronomy tells you because Moses prayed for his life. Deut.9:18 *And I fell down before the Lord as at the first forty days and forty nights I never ate bread nor drank water because of all your sins which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord to provoke Him to anger.* That is his second time that he prayed forty days and forty nights. Then the third time in chapter 10:10 *As at the first time I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights.* Moses had three forty days and forty nights experience. The first and the last are famous. We all know about it. But the second is virtually unknown to many Christians. Because the second was the time when he came down he was so grieved. I mean if you have ever seen God angry, it will propel you into a depth of repentance. And Moses fell on his face for forty days and forty nights. The third thing is Moses was a man of prayer. He was a man after God's heart. And he tapped into his friendship with God. He was willing to pay the price to wait on God. Very few people today are willing to wait on God for long hours. Very few people will take a few days off just to spend time alone with God. Most people take time off to go on a holiday.

Fourth Degree: Having the Mind of Christ

The last and most powerful degree, which you can tap into the Spirit of prophecy, is never found in the Old Testament. It is only found in the New Testament. It is like living in the Spirit of prophecy all the time. In I Cor. 2 we are talking about being able to see the things of the future and know the depths of the future the things of God. I Cor. 2:9 *As it is written eye has not seen nor ear heard. Nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God.* Now it looks like in verse 9 nobody will know the deep things of God. But then in verse 10 it tells you God wants to reveal it to us through His Holy Spirit. Verse 12 *we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.* The keys is given to you in verse 16 *who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him. But we have the mind of Christ.* The fourth degree of the Spirit of prophecy is to have the mind of the prophet himself, the mind of Christ. It was never possible in the Old Testament because nobody could be born again. But in the New Testament there is

something different. You could walk with the mind of Christ so that you will think as Christ thinks. You perceive as Christ perceived. You will know as Christ knows. It is one of the most powerful realms you can break into.

The bible tells us in Rom. 12:1-2 *To present your bodies as a living sacrifice and do not be conformed to world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you will know the will and the plan of God.* Think about it. What is prophecy? What is the word of wisdom? It is a portion of God's mind given to you. The Spirit of prophecy is a portion of God's wisdom given by divine utterance through the mouth of a prophet to God's people. The fourth degree is to have the whole mind. This is what the bible is looking for in the New Testament. In Hebrews 8 and Hebrews 9. Heb. 8:8 He is talking about us. Not talking about old generations. *Behold the days are coming says the Lord will make a new covenant with house of Israel.* Now he is talking about the new covenant of which we are a part. Verse 10 *This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people. And they will no more say to one another know the Lord for they will all know the Lord.* My question to you is this. This is not a promise just for heaven. If it is a promise just for heaven then it will not be classified here under the new covenant. Because in heaven we will know as we are known since we have the mind of the Lord. Remember how powerful that spiritual mind is. When we get to heaven you don't have to get to know everybody and carry a name card. Even though you have never met prophet Habakkuk before, you don't have to go heaven and ask, "Are you Habakkuk?" In heaven Paul says in I Cor.13 when the perfect has come you will know as you are known. The moment you see Habakkuk you will say, "Hi, Habakkuk" even though you have never met him before.

Notice in the Transfiguration that took place in Matt.17 and Lk. 9 and Mk. 9 That nobody told Peter that it was Moses and Elijah. Yet somehow in the spirit when they saw that spiritual figure, the revelation came, "This is Moses, this is Elijah." We will know even as we are known. It is a powerful realm the mind of Christ. In heaven you will know how to play all heavenly instruments. On this earth it takes many years to learn the piano, many years to learn the violin. But in heaven even though you have never played any instruments before, when you look at the instruments you will be able to play them. How come? The mind that God can give you is the perfected mind. You see a glimpse of that in Adam before he fell. When

he looked at all the animals he named them after their nature. When he fell his mind was darkened. God is restoring the mind of Christ.

In Eph. 1 it tells us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation can cause a light to come upon our mind. It can renew the eye of our understanding. So that we begin to see the things the way God sees it. The mind of Christ is the most powerful degree that we can move into. It is not only having the anointing of the Spirit of prophecy once in a while. It is having that prophecy breathing in you, living in you all the time. And I believe Enoch moved into such a realm that he was just transformed and translated into the realm of God. We need to be aware of the difference between the voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit.

In the book of Acts 21:11 *Agabus says here thus says the Holy Spirit*. Now that's the voice of the Holy Spirit. Then in Acts 27:10 *Paul says I perceived that this voyage will end with disaster*. When someone says *I perceived* is different from *thus says the Lord*. *Thus says the Lord* is a genuine prophecy. *I perceived* is something that Paul's spirit could pick up through the mind of Christ. I Cor.7 there is a difference between I perceive and thus says the Lord. And we need to qualify that. Many times when you are counseling people, when you have a word from the Lord you can say, "Thus says the Lord." But if you don't have a word from the Lord you should say, "I perceive this is the best course of action." A lot of people perceive in their spirit and they are delivering it as *thus says the Lord*. The voice of the Holy Spirit and the voice of the human spirit are different. No doubt the human spirit received it from the Lord but don't say *thus says the Lord*. Just say I perceived. Now in I Cor. 7:10 *Now to the married I command yet not I but the Lord*. In verse 10 he says this writing is with a *thus says the Lord*. Then later on in verse 12 he says *to the rest I not the Lord*. He says in verse 12 this is not *thus says the Lord*. This is my perception. We who are in the ministry need to differentiate that. Any one who is in the ministry of prophecy or an office of a prophet or a gift of prophecy need to differentiate between what their human spirits receive and what the word of God says. One is by the anointing within and the other in by the anointing upon. The unction is different. We need to differentiate between perceptions in the spirit and thus says the Lord. The mind of Christ is a perception of your human spirit so renewed in God. As you walk with God your perception becomes so accurate that they carry the same weight as thus says the Lord. At first as you begin in the Christian life, some of the things you perceived are not quite real and true. But the closer you walk with God even

though without the thus says the Lord when you say I perceived, it carries the same weight and strength because of the mind of Christ by which you operate. That is why Heb. 8 and Heb. 10 repeat it again. That we move in to such a state in God in the new covenant that the mind of Christ will be operating. Not only will God's people be a kingdom of kings and priests but also they will be a prophetic people.