



GIVING A CLEAR PROPHETIC WORD

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Last words of advice and thank you for allowing me to be part of your growth journey.

A note from Lyn

Hi, I'm Lyn Packer and I lead the School of Prophets Aotearoa.

One of the biggest lessons I've had to learn in my growth as a prophetic communicator is how to give a clear, easily understood, prophetic word that accurately expresses God's heart and intent for a situation, person, church, or nation. It's an ongoing learning process, too. I'm better at it now than I was when I first started giving prophetic words, but I know I still have a lot to learn about how to communicate effectively.



When I first started prophesying, my misunderstandings about the nature and character of God, and the sort of relationship He had brought me into with Him, affected how I ministered. I was nervous, and scared that what I did wouldn't please God. My insecurities and anxiety, and my desire to not add anything to what God had said, meant that I acted like a nervous, scared servant, rather than a daughter who knew her Father's heart and desire to do good, and who partnered with Him to see His goodness released. Thankfully I have learnt a lot over the years, have become secure in my relationship with God, and have learnt some good communication skills.

The training in this doc is something I wish I'd been taught when I was first learning to prophesy, and I pray that it will help you as you endeavour to grow in the use of the gift of prophecy.

Bless you heaps

Lyn

LET'S DO IT!



WHAT'S THE POINT?

Communications experts tell us that communication has several aspects to it – the words we use, the tone they are spoken in, and the body language of the person speaking. It is generally accepted that...

- 7 percent of meaning is communicated through the words we use
- 38 percent through tone of voice, and
- 55 percent through body language.

When we speak a prophetic word face to face with a person, all of those things are a part of the content of the message. So that makes not only what we say, but how we say it, very important.

Giving a prophetic word is not just about sharing information. A prophetic word is an invitation from God for the person, to experience Him and the reality of what it means to walk in a relationship with Him, to be guided by Him, and to see His plans for their life come to pass.

A prophetic word therefore needs to express not just words and information, but to be a true representation of God's heart and intent for the person. This should be shown not just in words spoken, but in our attitude toward the person, our tone of voice, body language, and look in our eyes, as we give the prophetic word.

There are some differences when we share a written prophetic word, and we'll look at those later in this training session, and share with you how to present a clear written prophetic word.



Over the years I've heard many prophetic people say things about processing and sharing revelation that have, in effect, been something like this...

“Aren't I just supposed to give what I receive without changing or adding anything?”

I understand what they are trying to say, and I know they are trying to be scriptural, but often that statement, or something like it, is based on a misunderstanding of what Scripture tells us about giving prophetic words, and how God works with people.

God is not looking for 'drainpipes for Jesus', people who are mindless conduits. Instead, He is looking for sons and daughters who are growing in maturity, and in understanding Him and His kingdom, who will work in cooperation with Him to see the people of the earth blessed through the use of the gift of prophecy.

Giving a prophetic word that can do what God sent it to do has a lot to do with how effectively we communicate.

And, as I've learnt over the years, communication is not actually clear unless the message is understood by the person you give it to. When we deliver a clear prophetic word it lessens the risk of misunderstanding, confusion, and any possible wrong interpretation of what was said.

“Communication is not actually clear unless the message is understood by the person you give it to.”



One of the most important things to learn in giving prophetic words is the need for clarity. Clarity in understanding exactly what God is saying to you, and clarity in communicating to others.

Nathan Shaw taught an outstanding session on this one year at School of Prophets Aotearoa. In that session he said,

“Clarity is essential. It determines several critical things...

- Whether a word is heard or not.
- Whether a word is understood or not.
- Whether a word penetrates the heart or not.

Clarity is a gift you give to the person you are prophesying over; it enables the word to be conveyed and received easily. The best prophets are those who, through years of learning, can make the complicated simple, or the contentious palatable. “



The following are two verses that talk about the need to communicate clearly.

Hab 2:2 *“The LORD gave me this answer: Write down clearly on tablets what I reveal to you, so that it can be read at a glance.” (so that a runner can carry the correct message to others - NLT)*

1 Cor 14:7-9 *“Even in the case of lifeless instruments, such as the flute or harp, how will anyone recognize the tune they are playing unless the notes are distinct? Again, if the trumpet sounds a muffled call (indistinct, not immediately obvious, unclear) who will prepare for battle? So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air... “*



CLARITY, CONFUSION, OR CONTENTION...

The way a prophetic word is shared has the potential to bring clarity, confusion or contention. A great example of a word that could have brought contention, if not given well, was when Nathan had to go and speak to David after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba. (2 Sam 11,12)

Two important things happened between Nathan receiving revelation from God and his speaking to David – time, and processing.

Both these allowed clarity to form. If Nathan had released the revelation without processing, the level of contention and strife would have been very high. Nathan could have received the revelation and gone straight to

David and accused Him of being an adulterer and murderer. Doing that meant that the potential was high for David to feel attacked, to go straight into defensive mode, and to either deny the allegation, and question Nathan's ability to hear from God – and his office as a prophet – or it could even have led to Nathan being put to death.

Instead, Nathan proved himself to be a wise steward and master communicator. He took the time to process, which led to a skilled and creative approach that avoided possible contention, and yet was still clear and understandable, and powerfully got the message across.

Training in how to deliver a word is important for becoming an effective prophetic minister. Learning to process through with God the revelation you receive, and taking the time to think about how best to deliver the prophetic word, is vital. It will make the difference between whether you give a word that is easily understood or not.

Taking that time to process is important in both spontaneous spoken utterances and deliberately crafted words – spoken or written.

- Spontaneous utterance is important because you learn to take spontaneous leaps of faith.
- Deliberate crafting is important because you learn the craft of giving a word, and you can make sure that the word hits the mark and is easily understood.

One of the saddest things that could be said about a word we give...

“I KNOW WHAT HE SAID
SOUNDED REALLY SPIRITUAL,
AND IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD
TO HAVE A PROPHETIC WORD
GIVEN TO ME, BUT I DIDN'T
REALLY UNDERSTAND A LOT OF IT.”



“WRITE DOWN

clearly

**ON TABLETS WHAT I
REVEAL TO YOU, SO
THAT IT CAN BE READ**

and understood

AT A GLANCE.”

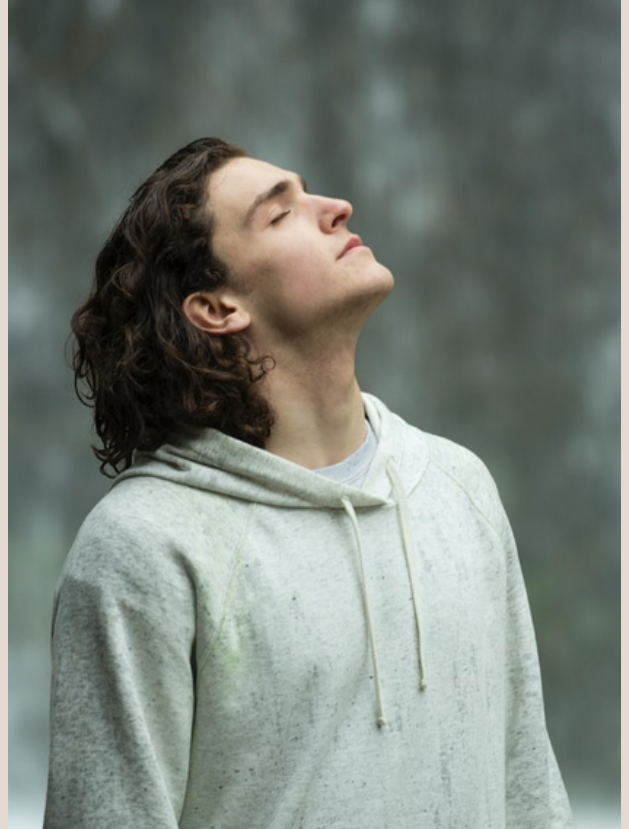
HAB 2:2

TO GAIN CLARITY

Here are some things to help you gain clarity about a revelation before sharing a prophetic word...

Who is the message for? Is the revelation for you personally, or is it for another person, family, group, or church? It's important to know who the intended recipient of the prophetic word is. Please forgive the use of a shooting range analogy here, but it's an apt analogy. You can stand at the release point and use a shotgun approach – release an unfocused word and, like a shotgun, spray pellets everywhere, hoping to hit something, or you can use a sighted, focused approach, like a rifle, and take aim only at the specified target and hit it.

Do you understand what God is actually saying? Have you processed it through and asked Him questions, so that there are no assumptions or misunderstanding on your part? To gain clarity you want to go from the general to the specific in your understanding and detail. God often gives generalized information to invite us to process further with Him. The more you know and understand exactly what God is meaning, the more you can convey that.



Have you assumed anything in processing it? Have you made sure that your hearing or interpretation hasn't been coloured by your perspectives, cultural stuff, your church's theology, and your assumptions, etc? Avoid adding your assumptions to a word. Sometimes we can assume that God meant a particular thing when He spoke. This can lead to us adding something to a word that gives it a whole different meaning. For example, in the following revelation, "*Their whole life is going to change in seven days*", if I make the assumption that the Lord means the next seven days, the addition of two words "the next" would change everything, and the prophecy would become, "*Your whole life is going to change in the next seven days.*" That assumption would cause a wrong word to be given, and lead to confusion and all sorts of other possible damage in the person's life.

What needs to be shared, and what needs to be left out? Not everything you see or hear from God always needs to be shared. Often God shows us something initially to get our attention, and start us processing with Him, until we get the actual word to share.

If you share too much of how you received the revelation, too many details of a vision, and give too much unnecessary detail, you run the risk of diverting attention away from the main point of the word.

That's a really important point there – too often the main point God is trying to communicate to a person gets overshadowed by us including too many unnecessary details!

Ask, “What do I share?” “What do I leave out?” “Do they need all the details of the vision I saw, how it affected me, and how I processed it, or will that take away from the actual message God has for them?”

Is this the right time to share this word? Some prophetic words are time sensitive, and some are not.

Some possible questions to ask...

- Am I supposed to share what You've shown me? If so, when? – now, or at a later date.
- How much, if any, of the actual original communication do I share. e.g. of a vision, an experience?
- Who do I share it with? – a particular person, my pastor, my church, or wider than that.
- When should I share it?
- What form do I share it in? – spoken, written, drawn, story, painting, sung, posted on social media, etc.

Do you need to allow this word to do a work in you? Often, if a prophetic word is for a church, region or a national word, the Lord will want to do a work in your life as a prophet with it, especially if you are part of that church, region or country. But God may also use a word that you give another person to speak into your own life – this often happens in the process you go through before giving it.



Have you worded it well? – in a way that will get the message the Lord wants to give with clarity, so that the message is crystal clear, not muddled and so general that it could mean anything.

- **Avoid generalized blanket statements** – Can I suggest that you be careful about making ‘blanket statements’ in your prophetic words – statements that apply to everyone, everywhere, unless the Lord specifically indicates that it is a word for everyone. The work the Lord is doing is often different in different people, and when we make blanket, all-inclusive statements it can cause confusion to those reading, and make them question what they are hearing personally from the Lord.
- Here are some examples of blanket statements given as prophetic words that I’ve seen on social media sites - *“God is going to bring breakthrough today.”* (To whom, and in what area? – finances, health, spiritual life, family, work....etc) or *“Miracles of provision are coming your way”*, and *“Church, God is calling you to repent.”*
- **Avoid ambiguous statements that are open to more than one interpretation.** The following is a critical understanding about how people receive the prophetic words we speak over their lives. When a person hears a prophetic word spoken over their life they usually apply it to one of two main things...
 - The issue, or desire, that is uppermost in their heart and mind.
 - The issue that is currently the most pressing.

Here’s an example of an ambiguous prophetic word, and how it could be outworked according to the things I mentioned above – *“God is saying there are relationship changes coming for you.”* If a person is lonely and longing for a marriage partner, then according to a) and b) above this could be taken by a person to mean

- (uppermost desire) God is going to bring me a marriage partner.
- (current issue) I’m not going to be lonely anymore, ever again.



The way you avoid ambiguity is to ask God for more clarity before giving the word.

In the example I gave above about relationship changes, by asking God more questions before speaking we might find out that it was a workplace relationship where contention was happening, and God was going to bring understanding, resolution, and restore harmony in the workplace as a result. Then we would have been able to give this clear word – *“God is about to bring clarity to you regarding a workplace relational issue, and that clarity will lead to understanding and resolution of both differences in personality and methods of operating. This will produce greater harmony and productiveness in your workplace, and will also increase your understanding of workplace relational dynamics. The Lord says to ask Him and He will give you strategic insight and creative resolutions.”*

Work out with God what the best way is to share this word with this person.

Scripture itself tells us that prophetic words can be delivered in a variety of ways. Hos 12:10 *“I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables (used allegories, symbolism and acted out messages) through them.”* Here are several ways of sharing the revelation God has given you...

- **Saying** – delivery through speaking, singing, spoken rhyme, parable, etc.
- **Writing** – written word, poetry, article, blog piece, script for drama, etc.
- **Created expression** – drawing, painting, sculpture, jewellery, collage.
- **Giving** – gifts, money, time, acts of service.
- **Prophetic acts** – prophetic actions/acts, movement/dance, drama, movies.
- **Prophetic Prayer** – sometimes you’ll pray God’s will, or the release of promised provision, over someone. This may be privately in your prayer times alone at home, declaring the blessing of God, the release of the provision of God etc.

Once you have a clear word, and know the best way to share it, step out.

Let the person know that you submit this word for them to weigh before God, and then give the word in a confident manner with a clear voice.

WRITTEN PROPHETIC WORDS

There are some differences between giving a spoken prophetic word and a written one that it's good to be aware of.

We talked earlier about the percentages of communication – words we speak, tone of voice, and body language.

When we present a written prophetic word all that people can see are the words we use. They miss out on tone of voice and body language. So our ability to communicate clearly becomes even more important.

In a written prophetic word we must choose our words with extra care to make sure they contain, and communicate, the heart of God in a clear and understandable way. So here are some tips for preparing a prophetic word in written format...

- **Write as you speak** – If you don't normally use big words in speaking, don't use them in writing. Trying to write in a way that's not you will hamper your communication, rather than enhance it.
- **Study other people's written prophetic words** – See which ones communicate effectively, and which ones don't. Ask yourself (and the Lord) why they do, or don't, and learn from their mistakes. Critiquing other people's writing styles is not about being critical, it's about learning, growing, and being a good steward of the gift the Lord has given you.



- **Be succinct** – More is not always better, but neither is too little. Using too many words, or using overly symbolic or flowery speech, may not be what's needed to get your message across. On the other hand, be aware that being too succinct also might not get across the things that are on the Lord's heart.
- **Don't use vague or unclear phrases** – People must be able to understand what you mean. As the giver of the word, you may know exactly what God spoke to you, and also what you mean when you use certain phrases, but the people reading the prophetic word aren't privy to your thought processes and conversation with God. All they have are the words you write down.
- **Be careful of using Christian phrases and cultural colloquialisms** – Your local church language may not be clearly understood across cultures, or even from one part of the Body of Christ to another. Your localized cultural sayings may not mean the same thing from one culture to another, and may even be offensive to another culture.
- **When you've finished writing the word** – Check it to make sure it isn't full of your biases, perspectives and opinions on things. We must lay down our opinions and perspectives to both hear God clearly, and communicate His heart clearly.
- **After you've checked it - edit it!**
That's right, edit!

Don't be afraid to check and rewrite where necessary, to make sure you communicate the Father's heart and intent clearly.

Editing doesn't mean that you didn't hear God correctly to start with; editing and rewriting clarifies communication, and is good stewardship of the word He gives you.



IN FINISHING

My hope and prayer is that you are an incredible blessing to people as you share God's heart with them through the gift of prophecy. To that end, I hope these suggestions and guidelines will help you to communicate prophetic words clearly, so that they are easily understood, and there is no confusion for those on the receiving end.

It will take some practice to be able to communicate clearly and effectively, but it is worth persevering and learning how to do so. The end result is that you will truly be a blessing, and you'll give prophetic words that are full of the rich goodness of God.

Arohanui - much love

Lyn

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Thank you

For allowing me to walk alongside
you in your growth journey.