



Wisdom for
**PROPHESYING
OVER SOCIAL
MEDIA**

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A note from Lyn

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

Social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc have had a huge impact on society. With online communication and social media sites now playing a big part in people's lives we've seen a huge increase in prophetic words being shared online.



As I look at social media I see two things...

- Prophetic words that are well processed and communicate clearly – these words are a blessing because of that.
- I also see a lot of people who don't know how to use the gift of prophecy maturely or wisely. Sadly this has an effect – it makes people suspicious of prophetic ministry, and even sometimes misrepresents God in its content.

My aim in writing this training session is to share some wisdom for how to effectively and wisely share prophetic insights on social media, so that people get a true representation of God and His wonderful plans for mankind.

Bless you heaps

Lyn

LET'S DO IT!



INTRODUCTION

The gift of prophecy is a blessing from God, a gift given to let people know God is with them in every circumstance, and that He cares and wants to help them navigate life. It's a gift that I've been privileged to use for many years, and during that time it has blessed many. But I have also seen many unwise things done, and over the years have done some things which I regret, as I've learnt to use the gift wisely and maturely. Most of those were because I didn't understand the gift and the way it was to be used.

Over recent years many Christians have become captivated with the gift of prophecy – with receiving prophetic words from others, and also with giving prophetic words. While longing for God to speak to you and learning how to use the gift of prophecy are both good desires, for some people this attraction has led to them actively seeking prophetic words from people.

The use of social media platforms has magnified access to prophetic ministry and made room for what was confined largely to within church walls to become widespread and global in reach. Who do you trust, and how do you know if a word is truly from God? I hope to give you some advice in this doc that will help with determining those two things.



The number of prophetic words we see being released currently has many human factors that come into play, some legitimate and some soulish...

- A legitimate hunger that people have to hear from God and access spiritual realities.
- A legitimate God-given need by genuine prophetic voices to share what God is saying to them.
- A soulish need for spiritual input, a fascination with the gift of prophecy – the desire and appeal of having another person hear a word from God for your life, and the practice of collecting prophetic words like treasures and trophies etc...
- A soulish need by people to share the revelations they are receiving. There may be many reasons behind this one.

Those sharing revelation online all claim that it is given to them by God and, while much of it is valid prophetic revelation, there is much of it that is not. It is often either revelation that was purely for the person receiving it, or is a generalized word of encouragement that could mean anything to anyone. Other prophetic words are genuine prophetic words, but are not well processed, or worded well, or are unwisely shared revelation, e.g. given with a harsh, judgmental tone.

That said, let's dive into the subject deeper and hopefully introduce some wisdom and training into the situation!



THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL REVELATION

While genuine prophetic ministry is an incredible gift from God, over the past couple of decades we've seen a rise in fascination with the gift of prophecy. The reason for this is that prophetic words, and other spiritually sourced revelation, are attractive because they appeal to people's spiritual hunger for spiritual realities.

Sadly that curiosity can turn into an abnormal hunger and fascination to have others hear from God on your behalf. The danger in this is if it becomes a replacement for you seeking insight and wisdom from God for yourself, in relation to your daily life and the situations you face.

What I'm about to say may sound strong, but it is a distinct possibility – if you are not careful you may run into the danger that your seeking prophecy becomes a Christian version of what happens in the world when people seek out, read, and follow horoscopes. Horoscopes are presented as harmless, but they are a demonic counterfeit of prophecy. Other demonic counterfeits of true godly prophetic ministry include clairvoyants, astrology, Tarot reading, and so-called communication with the dead. All these present spiritual predictions that appear to fit our circumstances, and whose purpose is to draw us into agreement and alignment with the words spoken so that spiritual forces can go to work in our lives. Often, too, the generalities in wording make it easy for us to fit them to our circumstances.

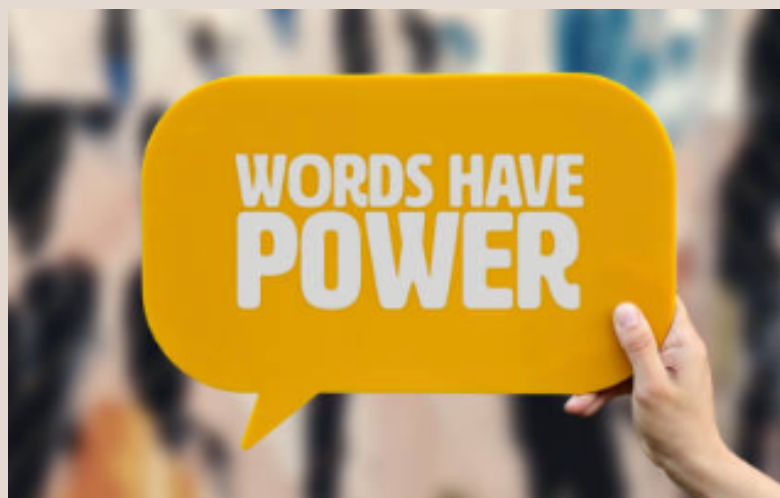


WORDS HAVE POWER

Both prophecy and demonic spiritual revelation have effects on us spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally. Words have creative and transformative power within them. Most of us have at some time or another heard the saying, “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me.” And we also know it’s untrue. Words have incredible power to bless and to hurt, to release life and hope or despair, and in some cases even cause death.

Both true prophetic words and their demonic counterfeits have a similar effect on the brain and body, especially when you approach them with faith (belief in them). Let’s look briefly at the effect they have on the body and emotions. Reading, or hearing, spiritually powered revelation can cause a physical and emotional response through the release of hormones such as...

- Dopamine – the feel-good hormone that causes a reduction of stress and anxiety.
- Cortisol – which works with parts of your brain to control your mood, motivation, and fear.
- Oxytocin – this is often called either the ‘love hormone’ or the ‘moral molecule’ (prompting behaviours). It brings feelings such as empathy, and awareness of social cues.



If you don’t know this is happening within you, you can easily mistake the good feelings, or even a tinge of fear, with a word being either true, or it being from God. It’s all too easy to then respond to that feeling, instead of discerning the word, weighing it, and asking, “Is this from God?” and “Is it a word for me, or am I feeling this way because the word has caused an emotional response, and because it also appeals to the need in my life?”

Here are a couple of verses that tell us about the power of words. I encourage you to do some study and refresh yourself in the understanding of what words can do – to your own life, and to other people's.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit” Prov 18:21.

“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones” Prov 16:24.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen” Eph 4:29.

That's part of why we are told in the Bible to weigh prophetic words (1 Thess 5:19-22; 1 Cor 14:29).



THE POWER OF THE WORDS GOD SPEAKS

“My word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” Isa 55:11.

But Jesus told him, *“No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'”* Matt 4:4.



WISDOM FOR SOCIAL MEDIA PROPHECY

While social media platforms are a great way to share the gospel and prophetic words etc, they also have the potential to be misused. If the people posting them, or the people reading them, aren't good at discerning then problems can occur. Here are a few of the potential problems and shortcomings we often see in social media prophecies, and some tips for both discerning social media prophecies and posting them...

Learn to process before posting. We need to process the revelation we receive before sharing it, and we need to make sure we have not mixed our opinions in with what we've heard from God. Some of the things we should be asking God are...

- Is the revelation for me personally? Just because we hear something in our quiet times doesn't automatically authorize us to post it on social media as a prophetic word from God. Is it a prayer assignment, or is it for sharing? If it's for sharing, do I share all of it, or are some parts simply for my clarity of understanding? What bits do I share, and who do I share it with? How do I share it – what platform, format etc? When do I share it etc?

- Is its message clear and not ambiguous, or could it mean anything people want it to mean?
- Is it clear who the word is for?
- Does it encourage, build up, and comfort, or does it sound harsh or judgmental?
- Do I need to share it with others first, for confirmation and weighing?

Stick within scriptural guidelines for New Covenant prophecy. The following verses are some of the scriptural protocols for the gift of prophecy found in the Bible.

- It must function from love – 1 Cor 13:1-9.
- It should strengthen, encourage, or comfort people – 1 Cor 14:3.
- It should be tested or weighed to see if it reflects who God is, and whether it reflects who Christ is as the truest prophet – 1 Thess 5:19-22; 1 Cor 14:29; 1 John 4:1.
- It should testify to the work Christ is doing, or wants to do, in mankind and in the world itself – Rev 19:10.
- It should display the fruits of the Spirit in the life and ministry of the prophetic person – Gal 5:22-23.

“One of the biggest mistakes prophetic people make is thinking that what God is doing in them personally, He is doing corporately – then releasing it as a word for the body.”

Melodie Hall



Don't assume you have the authority and mandate to share a word to the nation

– The gift of prophecy does not give you automatic right to expect the nation to listen to you, or to do what you think it should do. In the Bible we see that prophets were assigned spheres of influence and authority from God. Paul talks about this in 2 Cor 10:13-16. They did not automatically have the right to speak into everyone's life, anywhere, or all the time. Neither do we. We grow in influence and authority, in favour with God and man by proving ourselves faithful in character, wisdom in the way we live life, and in the way we handle and use our gifts – Jesus showed us this (Luke 2:52).

Be accountable – do you allow for people to speak into your life, bringing correction where needed, and giving advice to help you grow? Scripturally, accountability is about responsibility, not about control. It's about considering the consequences of what we do and making wise decisions. If we don't allow for any relational input and accountability as part of the body of Christ, then we will act as lone-ranger prophets who are out of biblical order.

Take responsibility for what you say

– Sadly, sometimes prophetic people have an unwillingness to be held accountable by ministry peers for their predictions, especially ones that have time frames, are highly directional, involve certain people, or have specific warnings etc. attached to them.

You are responsible for the words you release – you can't blame God; He didn't force you to do it!



“PROPHETS GROW

best

**WHEN THEY
ALLOW OTHERS TO**

speak

INTO THEIR LIVES.”

Be careful of giving highly directional words – As prophets, we don't have the right to tell people what they should, or should not, do. God works by invitation in His children's lives, not by ordering them around like a slave.

Prophetic words should bear fruit, and have measurable results – All too often we see highly directional words, warnings etc. that have no specific aspects to them that allow them to be confirmed or judged. If words have transformative power then we should be able to see the results of the prophetic words that are released in some way or another.

Words of judgment and wrath – As New Covenant prophetic ministers we minister from God's love, not from judgment. Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn the world, but to save it. All sin was taken upon Jesus on the cross, judged and forgiven, therefore we are in the age of grace and reconciliation. Our ministry as Kingdom ambassadors is that of announcing that God is here, now, with us, in love and forgiveness, and is establishing His Kingdom amongst us.

Sin still has consequences, and there will be a day when all mankind will stand before God concerning how they lived their lives, but that is not today, and judging is not our job, it's God's.



Overly generalised words – e.g., “God is bringing breakthrough into your circumstances today”, or “Miracles of provision are coming your way”, “Church, God is calling you to repent”. Words as generalised as these show a lack of processing before releasing, and could be made to fit anyone's circumstances, anywhere, whether they are an actual word from God for that person or not. Also, a word like this is so vague it doesn't allow for any accountability – What circumstances? Whose circumstances? Provision in what area? Repent of what? When is the breakthrough coming? What is their part in seeing the breakthrough? Are there any conditions etc...? Do a study of the prophetic words in the Bible. Check out how specific they are.



Is Prophetic fatigue setting into the Church?

When prophecies are overly generalized, not processed well before being released, or don't come to pass, it can cause 'prophetic fatigue' and 'hope deferred' to occur in the Church.

The same can happen when prophetic ministers take no responsibility for what they release, and don't apologize when they get something wrong, or don't allow people to speak into their lives, thinking that they are above correction.

We are currently seeing many people becoming disillusioned with prophetic ministry and prophets because of this sort of behaviour by prophetic ministers.

God is calling us to maturity in prophetic ministry, to learn how to

rightly use the gift of prophecy and to be accountable for what we share.

As leaders and prophets, we need to own our part in the mess that's happened – it's happened largely because we haven't equipped the church properly in how to use this precious gift. We often haven't taught them how to discern if a revelation is from God, when, or if, it is to be shared, and with who it should be shared, etc.

How we move forward from here will largely determine whether we raise up healthy, mature, prophetic ministers in the generations to come, or we live with a mess that brings disillusionment and sees the gift of prophecy being shut down in churches all over again, as it was in previous centuries .

For the gift of prophecy to continue to be a blessing we need to look at several things...

- Good training in our churches on how to hear God, and how to discern and weigh revelation.
- Training in how to give well-processed, clear, prophetic words.
- Training in the personal responsibility associated with moving in the gifts.
- Training in knowing the difference between the use of the gift of prophecy and the role of the prophet.
- And no doubt there will be other things we need to look at also.

According to what we are taught in the Bible, the prophetic gift was never about releasing revelation here, there, and everywhere. Prophetic revelation is given in specific situations for specific purposes – whether that is for a particular person’s life, or to build up and establish the church. Its outworking is to bring people to maturity, not just as sons and daughters, but as those endowed with Kingdom authority, and who walk in ambassadorial authority, provision, and power.



If you are called to prophesy and to release prophetic words publicly, please learn to do so in a wise mature manner; that way you will honour God and the gift, not bring dishonour to it, yourself, or God. Let’s show the world a true expression of mature New Covenant prophetic ministry, and release the solutions of Heaven, soaked through with God's love and power.

Download our free sister document to this one – **“How to Give a Clear Prophetic Word”** from the School of Prophets Aotearoa website.

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 on social media in a responsible way that is also powerfully anointed, releasing words that bring the transformative power of God to work in people's lives, bringing glory to the Lord, and being a blessing to those who read your posts.

Arohanui - much love

Lyn

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Thank you

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