While multitudes of Christians chase after signs and miracles and flock to teachers of success and prosperity, God has been calling out a "wilderness people" who are consumed with hunger for more of Christ. Right now a glorious company is coming forth!
David Wilkerson

And I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
Revelation 19:10

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA
Prayer Study 555
THE LAST DAYS
LESSON THREE

THE LAST DAY'S PROPHET

We know that prophecy in the Last Days or at the end of the age will be very important. It is so important that satan will try to cause confusion in the Body of Christ by prompting men to give false prophecies. Thus, the Body will have to discern whether the prophetic word is true or false, and most likely many will be deceived. We must be careful, however, not to receive prophets for their words will give us direction and encouragement.

I have received direction and encouragement so many times in my life through the prophetic word that prophetic people have

given me. At times these words have been almost life changing as I have waited for their fulfillment and seen them come to pass. I believe there is a great need in the Body of Christ today for prophetic words, especially from *nameless, faceless prophets,* who have no agenda except to bring glory to the Lord or to warn His people of things to come. Many, many scriptures, as well as Church history, make it very clear that prophecy did not end with the death of the last original apostle or with the canonization of scripture. Furthermore, we know that one of the signs of the last days is the prophetic word coming as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28-32).

Before we get too far into prophecy, I want to explain the difference between the 5-fold ministry prophet and the gift of prophecy. Many have the gift of prophecy but are not prophets. To be a prophet is to operate in the 5-fold ministry office spoken of in Ephesians 4:11, a passage we will discuss later in this handout. Paul asks the rhetorical question: *"…Are all prophets?"*…(1st Corinthians 12:29). Of course, the answer is no! Nevertheless, all, who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, may have at times genuine prophet words and operate in the gift of prophecy, and still not be prophets.

Not every believer is called to be a prophet. It is a full time calling, and it is always confirmed by seasoned prophets and apostles. It is placed on a person's life at birth and given by Christ. Sometimes the manifestation might not come until years later, but the gift is given at birth. The job of the prophet, in the 5-fold ministry office, is, as all the offices working together are, *for the equipping or maturing of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up or edifying the Body of Christ.* The

prophet consistently walks in the gift. The prophet's messages, however, since the Church Age began at Pentecost, do not hold the same weight as the Bible or of the Old Testament prophets, and no word of prophecy should ever violate scripture. Present day prophets are used to give judgments, promises, blessings, etc. They sometimes warn of wars and prophesy peacetimes. While they do give personal prophecies, their emphasis is on the corporate Body of Christ.

Prophets are always in control of their gift. 1st Corinthians 14:32 tells us that the spirit of prophecy is subject to the prophet. In other words, the prophet has control over when and if he gives the prophecy. Thus, disruption of a church service is not necessary, and I believe that those who interrupt an anointed teaching of the Word to prophesy are wrong. In fact there are not many things that disturb me as the interruption of the preaching of the Word of God.

While the 5-fold ministry office (of the prophet) is given to the Church by Christ, the gift of prophecy is given by the Holy Spirit to any believer who covets this gift. Generally, the emphasis of one with the gift of prophecy is on individuals in the Body and not on the corporate Body. The one with the gift of prophecy uses the gift to encourage, edify and comfort members of the Body. The gift can be activated in anyone who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. People who minister in the gift of prophecy do so at any time the Holy Spirit chooses, but again this prophetic word is subject to the one prophesying and should be done decently and in order and at an appropriate time.

Prophecy, whether given by a prophet or one with the gift of prophecy, is for believers. The Word tells us in 1st Corinthians

14:22: *"Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.*

When you receive a personal prophecy or even hear a prophetic word for the Body, you should always test the prophecy by the Word of God. Additional safeguards are these*: Does the prophecy witness to the Spirit in you? Do your spiritual authorities confirm the prophecy? Are other spiritual counselors convinced that this prophecy is accurate?* Sometimes it is wise to "put the prophecy on the shelf" and just wait and let the Holy Spirit bring it about at the proper time, without you trying to help the Spirit. Trying to force the hand of God and make a prophecy come to pass by natural means often results in disaster. The Holy Spirit does not need our help, only our obedience.

I think that we could safely conclude that prophecy is the most important of the gifts of utterance and really one of the most important gifts of all, at least in Paul's mind. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, chapters 11,12,13, and 14, prophecy is mentioned more than any of the other gifts (22 times). Paul also tells us in 1st Corinthians 14:39-"*Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues."*

Harold Horton relates what the words we render as *prophecy* literally mean: *"To 'flow forth' is the lovely meaning of the commonest Hebrew word, Naba. To 'bubble forth, like a fountain' says one. As the heart of the Psalmist when it was bubbling up or boiling over….To flow forth-tumble forth-spring forth! You that prophesy!-do not these Hebrew words exactly describe your precious fountain? Who would not covet thus to prophesy?"*

Horton is dealing with the Hebrew. The Greek word translated *prophesy* means to "speak for another," to let your mouth be used for His message. Prophecy is never something that the human mind thinks up to say. True prophecy is from the Holy Spirit who uses your lips to speak in known languages the message He has for the Body or individual at that precise time.

The teachings from High Point Church in Macon, Georgia tell us what prophecy is not:

1. *"It is not preaching as some of the modern translations translate the word. Actually, there are a number of Greek words which are translated preach in the King James Version. These words, however, mean to make an authoritative declaration, to herald, to proclaim, to set forth, etc. The thought is that of giving out the Scriptures clearly and with authority.*
2. *The gift of prophecy is open to all believers and we are told to covet to prophesy (1st Corinthians 14:39). BUT the gift of prophecy does not set one in the apostolic office as a prophet (Ephesians 4:1,11).*
3. *It is not used to condemn the "life style" (modes of dress, wearing of the hair, etc.) of those present. A prophet may conceivably sound forth a warning about such things and a pastor or teacher may set forth the Scriptures having to do with such, but the whole purpose of the gift of prophecy is edification, exhortation, and comfort.*
4. *It is not to be taken lightly but judged.*
5. *It never takes the place of the written Word for prophecy will cease (1st Corinthians 13:8), but GOD'S WORD ABIDETH FOREVER (1ST Peter 1:25). It is inconceivable that the Holy*

Spirit through the gift of prophecy will contradict the Word of the Living God. Whole movements have ship-wrecked because they have taken prophecy above the Word of God.

6. *Often in the Old Testament the Word of Wisdom worked with prophecy in foretelling the future, but 'neither prescience nor prediction is implied by the term in the Hebrew, Greek or English languages.' (William Smith in his Bible Dictionary). So prophecy is NOT to be used to get guidance, for marriage, business ventures, missionary ventures, etc. This is not saying God may not use the Word of Wisdom to direct us at times, but the only safe procedure to follow is to ask the Lord to always confirm by His Spirit major moves by several witnesses to us."*

<u>The Purpose of Prophecy</u> (from High Point teachings)

1. *"To edify the believers, that is to build them up (a far cry from tearing down and discouraging them) (1st Corinthians 14:4). It will be like a fresh breath from the risen Christ blowing new life into our tired spirits.*
2. *To exhort, meaning 'a calling near.' We will sense a new awareness of His unseen presence with us. (1st Corinthians 14:3)*
3. *To comfort, console, and give solace to the sobbing spirit until it sobs its last heaving sigh and rests as a child on the breast of its understanding parent. (1st Corinthians 14:3, 31)*
4. *To convict the unbeliever and make manifest the secrets of his heart. (1st Corinthians 14:24,25)*

5. *That believers may learn in the mysterious realm of the spiritual what they cannot grasp with the natural mind. (1st Corinthians 14:24, 25)*

Prophetic Pitfalls
(from Kingdom Watch)

God is more concerned about the purity of his Prophets, than the accuracy of their prophecies. He values the men and women themselves and their motives as much as their message and ministry.

Dr. Bill Hamon in *Prophets, Pitfalls and Principles*

1. **A Critical and Harsh Spirit:** Prophets have high standards. They see things in black and white. This can sometimes result in the prophet being critical, which makes their words seem harsh, even if they are true. If we enjoy giving hard words, we may have a critical spirit.
2. **Frustration and Bitterness:** All prophets experience rejection, if their words are not always accepted and obeyed. If this happens frequently, the prophet can become frustrated, and frustration can lead to bitterness. Words spoken out of frustration and bitterness will be contaminated by these things and will not come out pure. This is one of the most serious problems faced by prophets. They must learn to deal with rejection without going into frustration and bitterness. **Stephen L. Mansfield**: *Given the path that most prophets have had to walk, both as Christans and before, there is usually an exceptional need for*

attending to issues of wounding and bitterness. If these aren't addressed, the prophet will likely gravitate to an isolated, critical, and hardened condition of heart that can quench the prophetic fire. If these issues are addressed successfully, however, there can be a greater love and wholeness and thus a clearer prophetic flow than ever. **Janet Chambers** in *Cave Dweller or Tower Dweller: A cave seems to be a safe place, but it is not a dwelling place. The Body of Christ is full of wounded prophets who went into a cave and dwelt there.*

3. **Anger:** Prophet people often get angry with those who do not receive their words, when the real problem is that the message was not spoken clearly. The prophetic person may have been given a truth to share, but if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, no one will respond. The hard truth for prophetic people to swallow is that an unclear word is a dead word. Praise from friends and people who have already received the word does not mean much. We are all receptive to words that confirm our own views. The real test of a word is whether it is clear to those challenged by it. Taking rejection as a sign that a word was true is dangerous, because this is not always the case. Rejection often occurs because the word was not clear, and sometimes because it was not true. Prophets must be constantly looking at the way they presented their message. They should hone their words, so they can present a clearer warning.
4. **Pride:** Prophets usually lead lives that are extremely righteous. They can easily take on the spirit of the

Pharisees, who felt good, because they could see the sins of other people. Pride is very destructive of prophetic ministry. **Jack Deere** in *Surprised by the Voice of God* (p. 207): *Another trap into which I commonly see prophetic people fall is the desire to be awesome in ministry, to be "a prophet to the nations." This is the exact opposite of the true Spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). Prophecy is meant to testify to the awesomeness of Jesus, not to the prophetic ministry.* Cindy Jacobs in *The Voice of God* (p. 59): *Why does God have to deal so strongly with those who are prophetic? For one thing, they are so stubborn! For another, they are more prone to pride.*

5. **Prophetic Pushiness:** Prophets must avoid the trap of pushing their name forward. This pushiness often comes from frequent rejection, but must be rejected. Prophets must be servants of God's word. Their only concern should be that God's word is heard. If the word is heard, it does not matter if the prophet is forgotten. Prophets are human, so this is easier to say than to live.
6. **Rebellion:** Pride often leads to rebellion. Rebellion is terribly crippling for a prophet. It is the moral equivalent of witchcraft (1st Samuel 15:23). **Andrew Strom**: *I believe that many prophetic people (like myself) do have problems with "rebellion." They seem to rub leaders the wrong way almost by design sometimes. And then they develop a "persecution complex" or slink off wallowing in self-pity. I have done all of this and more. In times past I have found myself sitting in the "gate" like*

rebellious Absalom, subtly speaking words against the leadership and growing my own reputation thereby. Rebellion is the most insidious sin, and when you begin to see how much it dominates our world, and how ingrained it is in us, it is a real eye-opener. I have found that it is only when you have dealt with Rebellion that you can trust yourself to speak only God's word to a leader. Rebellion can greatly affect the words we bring to leaders, and yet many prophets seem to hardly know they have a problem in this area. I can look back now and I wince at the influence of Rebellion over my words and actions in the past. But God does cleanse and heal. Often now I see the Pastor's point of view-that of a leader and responsible shepherd, when unwise prophets arrive looking for something or someone to 'target.' So-called "prophets" like this are a curse, not a blessing. God is dealing with Rebellion now. If you can't sit under authority today, you will be a pain in the neck to tomorrow's leaders too. Deal with your rebellion now or miss out. It's that simple. I believe a lot of problems could be caused by roaming "lone ranger prophets" in the coming move of God-even worse than today. Tell me friend, do you have the makings of being just such a "lone ranger"??

7. **Control and Manipulation:** The Jezebel spirit uses manipulation and control to achieve results. It is the opposite and the enemy of the prophetic ministry. Prophets must avoid all temptation to "help" the fulfillment of their words by manipulating people.

African prophecy: *Steer clear of the "Three C's"- Condemnation, Control, and Criticism. These have to stay out of our prophecy. We need to root out the three C's ruthlessly in our words, in our thought life, in our actions. Don't give them place. Don't pray them, don't think them, and don't speak them. Then they won't get into the prophecy.* John Paul Jackson: *Every church that embraces a prophetic ministry will have to contend with the Jezebel spirit because it mimics the prophetic gifts and callings of God. This spirit comes to destroy the prophetic gift. Consequently, since it works covertly, its activities are extremely treacherous.*

8. **Misuse of Power:** God's gifts are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). This means that prophets can misuse their gift. Elisha and the rude children is an example. The scriptures do not say that Elisha's behavior was correct. They just record the incident. Elisha was not perfect. He just did his best with the knowledge that he had. With knowledge of Jesus and his teaching, it is clear that Elisha misused his gifting. The boys who mocked him were irrelevant. He should have just turned the other cheek and ignored them. James and John acted in the same way when they wanted to call down fire from heaven on those who opposed them. Jesus warned that they were acting in the wrong spirit. I think he would have said the same to Elisha. Prophets must not use their gifting to protect their role or their reputation.
9. **Jealousy:** Prophets can often become jealous of other ministries that seem to receive much more honor and

acceptance. Jealousy can prevent us from hearing clearly. **Elijah List (12-02-01):** *Men who have not mastered glory get easily offended at others. We get "this stinging bitterness" inside of us when we have not died to glory. We will only have menial success in life and ministry with this hindering spirit still raging on the inside. It will cause a jealousy to build on the inside of you. It will make you feel good when others' "ministry does not work." It will make you feel that "I am the one who can do this." "I am the one!" "I am the one!" Dying to glory is the hardest death to die.*

10. **Sexual Immorality: John Paul Jackson:** *Any ministry can fall prey to any sin, but prophetic people seem to be especially prone to sexual sin. Perhaps one reason is because of the heightened sensitivity that comes with the prophetic gift. While prophetic individuals can "feel" the movement of the Holy Spirit, but they can also feel the torment of demonic spirits that attack them through others. Sometimes a prophetic person will begin to discern and feel what someone is tormented with. If the prophetic individual is lax in their time spent with the Lord, it will become increasingly difficult to differentiate between their own feelings and those coming from other people. The second reason stems from various roots of rejection. In many cases, prophetic individuals have experienced rejection so often that they harbor deep feelings of insecurity. Subsequently, they also can harbor pride at doing something others may never have had the opportunity to experience. This pride becomes*

a driving force that opens the door to deception. Furthermore, they are prone to receive the acceptance of others with open arms, without maintaining an attitude of vigilance. Thus, a prophetic person who has not developed the characteristic of restraint becomes "open prey" for demonic torment and attraction.

11. **Rationalizing Mistakes:** *Some prophets are so worried about their mistakes that they refuse to admit them. No one is right 100 percent of the time.* **Jack Deere:** *Sometimes a prophetic person has a hard time admitting a mistake because he or she thinks it would ruin their credibility. Usually just the opposite happens. Rationalizing or failing to admit our mistakes is what usually ruins credibility. People trust people who say they were wrong.*
12. **Calling Out Sins Publicly:** Prophets should not publicly accuse individuals of sin. The gospel provides guidelines for dealing with Christians who sin. They should first be spoken to in private. **Matthew 18:15-17:** *If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.*
13. **Money:** Money can be a cause of blindness. Prophets should be careful about giving favorable words to those

who provide them with financial support. Generally, it is better if prophets can be financially independent of the church and the community. **Jack Deere** in *Surprised by the Voice of God* p. 209: *Materialism and money have always been a problem in prophetic ministry. Micah complained in his day, "This is what the Lord says: 'As for the prophets who lead my people astray, if one feeds them, they proclaim peace; if he does not, they prepare to wage war against him"* (Micah 3:5). *When prophets succumb to the temptation to give good prophecies to those who treat them well and bad prophecies to those who don't show them special deference, then the Lord may cease speaking to any of the prophetic people.*

14. **People Pleasing:** People pleasing is a killer for all ministry, and especially prophetic ministry. Prophetic people who tell people what they want to hear will lose touch with God (Galatians 1:10 & Ezekiel 13:2). A true prophet should not expect the praise of men (Luke 6:26). They will seek only the approval of God. **Cindy Jacobs** in the *Voice of God: Human love can taint a word. Sometimes love blinds the prophet causing him or her to give a good prophetic word when the Lord wanted to give a word of correction.* **Ivan Poulter:** *Few self-proclaimed 'prophets' are anything more than teachers. I see too much of the man pleasing spirit everywhere. I have just preached a little on Samuel. Now there was a prophet. Are there any so-called prophets operating in the realm of Samuel? If any, I don't know of them, and have never heard of them. Are there self-proclaimed*

prophets around the world? They are more abundant than cent pieces, and yet just about every single one of them are more travelling teachers who couldn't prophesy themselves out of a paper bag. **Rick Joyner** in *The Prophetic Ministry: Regardless of which ministry we are called to, we must not copy or emulate other people, but rather the One whose image we are called to bear. Schools for prophets may be helpful, but they will be counterproductive if they just bring forth "parrot," who all prophesy the same things.*

15. **Confusing Wisdom and Prophecy:** Most prophetic people have studied the scriptures for most of their lives. They usually have a passion for God's Kingdom and are keen observers of all that is going on in the world. This puts them in a good place to comment on what is happening in current events or to develop sound applications of the scriptures. Their wisdom is often really insightful and worth sharing, but it is not the word of the Lord, so it is misleading to label it prophetic. A prophet must be able to distinguish between what they receive from the Lord and what comes from their own wisdom.
16. **Blindness to Our Culture:** The hardest thing for a prophet is to see the weakness and sins of their own society, culture or denomination. If we are attached to something, we can be blinded by it. A true prophet stands apart from his culture. **Chris Anderson** in *Little Flock-Culture Prophets*: *If we attempt to execute the prophetic burden upon earth's affairs without first losing*

our love for and identity in our culture, our spiritual gift and office becomes overpowered and subverted by our culture to reaffirm its own ways. The prophetic becomes a mouthpiece for the very powers behind culture which is has been dispensed to challenge and oppose. We become unable to discern between the loves of John 3:16 and 1st John 2:15, deceived into believing that God's love for men and out love of culture are the same thing—our nations and our denominations, our government policies and our society's passing fancies, our civic customs and our religious holidays-believing we are indeed prophesying the true mind of the Lord and the true love of the Father to the world. We think we are executing God's will to transform the earthly into the image of the heavenly, but are only debasing heaven, lowering God to the image of the earthly.

Function of Prophets who are Giving a Personal Word

By Jonas Clark

1. Are forerunners who make a way for "greater things" to come (Matthew 3:3)
2. Deal with spiritual climates (Jeremiah 1:10)
3. Turn people from sin to holiness (Jeremiah 23:21-22)
4. Are front line intercessors (Jeremiah 27:18)
5. Turn the hearts of the fathers and sons (Malachi 4:5-6)
6. Challenge dead traditions of men and dangerous spirits of religion (Matthew 3:9-10)
7. Are stewards of the mysteries of God (Ephesians 3:5)

8. Carry lamentations, mourning and woe (intercession burdens) (Ezekiel 2:10)
9. Are fore-tellers of things to come (Amos 3:7)
10. Contend with false prophets of divination including Jezebel and Baal (1st Kings 18:19)
11. Challenge demonic territorial guards (Acts 13:7)
12. Speak to the nations and kingdoms (Jeremiah 1:5)

Prophetic ministry is a wonderful gift from God. Moses said, "Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them" (Numbers 1:29).

A NEW SEASON HAS BEGUN

In order to understand better the times we live in and the fact that a new season has begun, we need to go back and look at church history.

THE EARLY CHURCH

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.
Psalm 92:13-14

There are two wonderful Greek words used for Church in the New Testament. We are most familiar, perhaps, with *ecclesia*, which means *a calling out* or *assembly.* This word has to do with the structure and government of the Church. Thus, we in the Body of Christ are *the called out ones.* It is for these *called out ones* that Jesus gave His life (Ephesians 5:25: *Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself*

for it.) And it is this glorious church that Jesus is passionately in love with and is coming back for (Ephesians 5:27: *…a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.)*

Ecclesia describes the Church's relationship with the world. The Ecclesia is *called out* or separated from the world. There is, however, a much more tender word for the *called out ones* or ecclesia, a word that has to do with the Church's relationship with the members. That word is *koinonia. Koinonia* has to do with fellowship and communion. The Church was to practice *koinonia* or be like a family. One passage that clearly illustrates this is found in Acts 2:44-47: *Now all who believed were together and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

The growth of Christianity all over the world during this first century is so phenomenal that we can attribute this only to the power of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Church walking in both *ecclesia* (being called out from the world) and *koinonia* (walking in love for each other).

Yes, they walked in the power of the Spirit, exercised spiritual gifts, and loved each other. Because it is often controversial in today's "watered down" and "seeker friendly" theology, I want to specifically comment on how the early Church walked in the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit, although this study is not

designed to comprehensively study the early history of the Church but to give a broad view of the Church from its birth at Pentecost to its role in the world today.

The Church, since Pentecost in the first century, has always had those who walked in the gifts and ministry and power of the Holy Spirit. I find absolutely no scripture that supports the viewpoint that the early doctrines of the Church, such as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor the power of the Holy Spirit ceased with the close of the New Testament period and with the death of the original apostles. Historically there is ample evidence that the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit did not pass away with the death of the Biblical apostles, John considered by most as the last one to die around 94 years old in AD 100. In this age of instant information and the Internet, any of you can quickly look up and verify the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the early church long after the original Biblical apostles died.

Because of time, I can give you only a few examples of the power of the early church in walking in gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit and signs and wonders. In AD 150 Justyn Martyr wrote of Jews still leaving their communities in order to become Christians and receiving spiritual gifts in their new faith. Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, around AD 180, spoke of words of knowledge, prophecy, and healing gifts. Novatian, a prominent Christian elder in Rome, around AD 250, told of people who were prophets, people who spoke in tongues, and people who discerned spirits. Tertullian (AD 200), Origen (AD 230), Phioxenus (AD 510) affirmed the use of spiritual gifts in their services. John Knox (1514-1572), a Scottish leader of the Reformation, had the gift of prophecy as did Samuel Rutherford

(in the 1600s) and Charles Spurgeon (in the 1800s). Other famous Christians who testified of walking in gifts of the Spirit include Jeanne Guyon, George Fox, John Bunyan, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Charles G. Finney, George Muller, A.J. Gordon, D.L. Moody, and William and Catherine Booth, just to name a few.

In addition to the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gave the 5 fold ministry gifts, which are just as applicable today as they were in the first century church:

The Five Fold Ministry Offices

And He gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the Body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ, from which the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increases of the Body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:11-16

Why Did Jesus Give These 5 Fold Ministry Gifts?

1. For the perfecting or equipping of the believers
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the edifying or building up of the Body of Christ

4. So that, we, as the Body of Christ, come into unity and knowledge of Jesus
5. To a perfect or complete or mature person

Why Are These Gifts Necessary for Today?

Because the 5 Fold Ministry Gifts in proper operation will bring the Body of Christ both into unity and into a more complete knowledge of Jesus-remember that Paul said the goal of his life was *to know Him*! (Philippians 3:10: *That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death)*- the Body will come into maturity so that the Sons' Company might be manifest and Jesus can come back for a Bride without spot or blemish.

We have seen a remarkable restoration of these Five Fold Ministry offices in the last 70 years:
1950s **Evangelists-**Deliverance/Healing/Evangelist (Oral Roberts, AA Allen, Jack Coe, Kathryn Kuhlman)

1960s **Pastors-**Charismatic Renewal (Harald Bredesen, Dennis Bennett, Don Van Hoosier)

1970s **Teachers-**Faith Teaching Movement (Kenneth Hagan, Kenneth Copeland, Derek Prince, John O'Steen)

1980s **Prophets-**Prophetic Movement (Dr. Bill Hamon, Mike Bickle, John Paul Jackson, Bobby Conner, Rick Joyner, Bob Jones)

1990s **Apostles-**Apostolic Movement (Peter Wagner, Dr. Bill Hamon)

The Importance of Prophets in this New Season

Again in this lesson we want to emphasize the ministry of prophets, because the prophetic ministry will be one of the most Visible sign of this new season. So we come back where we started talking about prophets.

I have taken the liberty to quote extensively from Dr. Bill Hamon in his book *The Day of Saints* pp.183-187 and his book *The Eternal Church* to explain how prophets operate in the Body and equip the saints to move the Kingdom forward, especially in the Last Days:

Prophets Equipping the Saints

Prophets help bring vision, spiritual insight, revelations, impartations, and activation of the Believers' supernatural gifts and calling. They do this best with their prophesying and revelation knowledge. All fivefold ministers are to minister the Logos Word to the Believers, but prophets have a special ability to minister a Rhema Word that personally enlightens and activates faith in the Believers. Prophets help bring God's direction and vision to the Church at large, to local churches, to business, cities, and nations, as well as to individual Believers. Some prophets use their gifts of discernment to bring warnings about the plans of the enemy or of potential pitfalls to be avoided. The value of hearing their revelation from God is beyond measure. (p. 184)

Jesus is ready to come NOW. What is holding Him back? He is waiting for a Bride that has made herself ready (By any stretch of the imagination, *she is not ready!!!*). The Word says, *For the LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:24, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:13).* Are His enemies yet His footstool? *And* Who is going to make His enemies His footstool? I know there are still many enemies actively working against Christ and His church. I believe He is raising up a remnant of the Last Days, the Bridal Company or the Manifested Sons of God, as Mighty Warriors to do warfare against these enemies. This is what all creation is groaning for and waiting expectantly for. *For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God (*Romans 8:19) As we have studied, Galatians 4:1 speaks of immature believers who are children, not the mature Bride or Sons' Company that has made herself ready: *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.* The children are in contrast to the sons: *Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ* (Galatians 4:7) The children have grown up. They no longer have a servant mentality but a son's mentality, a son who is in covenant relationship with the pattern Son and walking in maturity. So again why did the Lord give the five-fold ministry offices gift to the Church?

Again,

1. For the equipping of the Believers
2. For the work of the ministry
3. For the building up of the Body

4. So that we come into unity and knowledge
5. To a mature Body

The Church must come to maturity before the Coming of the King. This is only one aspect of prophetic fulfillment that must take place before the coming of Jesus. At the same time, we will see Christians delivered up to be afflicted and killed, false prophets, iniquity abounding, the Gospel of the Kingdom preached in all the nations, the characteristics of the Days of Noah, etc, and the restoration of Israel, both natural and spiritual. You can study more about His Coming by reading the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25.

PROPHETIC PROCLAMATIONS

The Lord never brings a new season without proclaiming it through His prophets:

Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants, the prophets. Amos 3:7

The prophets must speak the proclamation forth to activate it:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:21

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit-you choose. Proverbs 18:21

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations), before him whom he believed, even God, who giveth life to the dead and calleth those things which are not, as though they were (Romans 4:17).

Examples of Prophetic proclamations in the Word of God:

1. Samuel the prophet proclaimed the mere boy and youngest son of Jesse, David, as the coming King (2nd Samuel 16): Season of the Reign of King David
2. John the Baptist announced the coming of the Messiah (Matthew 3): Season of the Ministry of Jesus on the earth
3. The prophetic leaders in Antioch proclaimed that Paul and Barnabas were to be separated for the work that the Lord had called them to (Acts 13): Season of the Gentile Church

<u>What will the New Season Look Like?</u>

1. **Our dependency will be on the Lord instead of on ourselves:** *But we have the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God, who raiseth the dead* (2nd Corinthians 1:9).
   "What a wonderful place to be-at the end of your rope! I have always said that when you hit rock bottom you bump into God! Yet, if you listen to most Christians in the midst of their sufferings, you hear, "I'll make it somehow. I'm hanging in there. I just live one day at a time." The way of escape is simple, childlike faith in God. It is trusting Him totally to see you through it all." David Wilkerson
2. **The remnant is rising in the land!** *And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ* (Revelation 12:17)
3. **Judgments are coming.** *And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her*

> [Babylon or the World System], *shall bewail her and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come* (Revelation 18:9-10).

"… the judgments of God will increase in the world. This is a good thing for all who love righteousness and justice because with them will also come revival….The judgments that are coming are grace from God to turn men back from the evil that is overtaking them. If we do not see them as judgments, but rather as natural events, then we will not repent and turn to God. We also see in Scripture that many will even curse God because of His judgments, but He is going to intervene and save the world from the destruction that we are headed for. He is doing all of this for our sakes." Rick Joyner

4.The Great Harvest will began to sweep the earth. *Therefore, said He unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest* (Luke 10:2) *Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest* (John 4:35).

"We are entering the times that the prophets and righteous of old desired to see, and we have been chosen to live in them. In 1987 I was given a two-and-a-half day experience in which I was shown an unfolding panorama of world events that I wrote in my book "The Harvest." Many of these events started coming to pass within a couple of years of the vision, and the greatest of all that I was shown will soon be coming upon us. The greatest of all of these events was a harvest of believers into the kingdom

that would come in two waves. The first wave began just a couple of years after I received this vision, and though it hardly touched North America and Europe, it swept more people into the kingdom than any previous move of God in history. This next one will not miss North America or Europe. After the first wave, I saw that there would be a time of relative spiritual quiet before another, far bigger wave of revival would come. We are now approaching the end of time of quiet, and the greatest move of God to ever come upon the earth is approaching. It will be a spiritual tsunami, and we must get ready." Rick Joyner

5.The Lord will show great grace to His people. *Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus* (2nd Tim. 2:1). "There is a new generation in the land today, a generation of sons and daughters with a new covenant spirit, a generation marked by grace, a Benjamin generation! Beloved, let us rise up and proclaim the message of our generation-God is no longer angry with us!" Jospeh Prince

Prophetic Words for Our Day

PAUL KEITH DAVIS: "There is about to be a separation between the 'spirit of Israel' and the 'spirit of Esau' in the Church."

KARI BROWNING: "Our promised day of visitation is at hand. All the pain, difficulty and hardships of this past season were preparing us for this new season. Out of our brokenness will come fullness. God is going to turn it all around and everything beautiful in His time. It's time to board the glory train. I hear the train a'comin."

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives…and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."

Nate Saint, missionary martyr