

New Wine Teaching

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What Is This Book About?

These ten chapters were originally produced as single-sheet topics for individual or group study. Increasingly it became obvious that they needed to be bound together as one volume so that “flow study” could be achieved.

“Flow study” means that the topics can be studied either individually, or better still, in sequence, thus forming a “flow” of truth. For this reason the subjects have been grouped together as much as possible in similarity.

Most of the topics are “present hour” truths that call us to deeper understanding and more radical commitment in applying them. It is intended that they will convict us to aim for maturity of spirit and soul.

Take time to seriously consider the truths here and allow the Spirit of Truth to lead us into all truth!

Peter M cArthur

Chapter 1

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

1. THE FORMATION OF OUR CHARACTER

- ◆ Jesus is the exact “*representation*” (*character*) of the Father’s nature according to Hebrews 1:3.
- ◆ The meaning of the word is “*a tool used to engrave.*” So, if we are going to be conformed unto Jesus, we need to let God engrave our soul and life so that it will become just like His Son’s.
- ◆ God uses the circumstances of life to form us into His shape: He is the potter, we are the clay. This begins when we are Born Again and made “holy.” The word “holy” simply means “*to be set apart.*”
- ◆ God takes us and sets us apart to make us into the form or shape He desires.
- ◆ This is why the formation of our character is important. We need to co-operate with the Lord in becoming more like Jesus.
- ◆ Read what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 7:1

2. THE HEART

- ◆ In Scripture the heart is linked to our inner-man, our spirit-life. This is why we are told to guard our heart (Proverbs 4:23).
- ◆ Our human character is formed by our upbringing, education, experiences of life, and so forth. But our Christian character is moulded by the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual union with God brings forth holy (“*separated*”) fruit in our lives.
- ◆ So it can be said that our Christian character is grown and nurtured within our spirit-man, the heart. Therefore, whatever is in our heart will *determine* our character. What comes out of our heart will *reveal* to others what our character is really like!
- ◆ We need to control what goes into the heart. Self-discipline, spiritual regulation and guarding our inner life are ways of protecting the development of the inner man.
- ◆ There is a need to re-order our life so that:

***The spirit is king,
the soul is servant, and
the body is slave.***

- ◆ The formation of the Christian life is a lost art in modern Christianity. The Hebrews, the early Christians and even those at the time of the Reformation, all had a sense of “developing the Inner Life.” John Wesley had such a method

of it that his followers were even called “*Methodists*.” His early assembly of Christian friends called themselves “*The Holy Club*” (the separated ones).

- ◆ The attitudes needed to bring about this Christian Formation of the inner man can be found in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-8) and in the list of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

3. REVELATION IS NEEDED

- ◆ Revelation is needed in order for us to see we need change. Without God showing us our needs, we are lost. So many of us try to keep on pleasing Him by reverting to religion and works.
- ◆ Once revelation comes, and we see the need to be changed and revived, our next step is to obey. It is here that so many Christians fail.
- ◆ They do not fail because of insincerity or lack of zeal; they fail because they look to “works” rather than to the person of Jesus.
- ◆ When revelation does its convicting work, our part is to *look away to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*, not to some method, work or religious thing that will bring us into further bondage.
- ◆ We will grow in character by learning to look upon Jesus and to behold Him. The better we know Jesus the more our spirit-man will yearn to be like Him. This is an automatic process based on God’s spiritual laws.
- ◆ Remember that the work of change going on within us is not our work, it is God’s work! Our work is to bend and to be pliable to Him.
- ◆ The Adamic nature that fights for control over our life has already been put to death on the Cross. The life that is now within us is the Seed that the Father placed there through the New Birth.
- ◆ It is our duty, privilege and even joy, to co-operate with our Father as He brings this seed to full maturity in us!

4. BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND (Ephesians 4:22-24)

- ◆ Throughout the centuries, but particularly in the 20th, Christians have tried to renew their minds using all sorts of spiritual disciplines and methods. Most have failed – because they were based on man’s works to try to improve himself.
- ◆ God does not want to improve us, He wants to transform us!
- ◆ Therefore, the only place we can find such change is before His throne. Certainly there are things we have to do and habits we have to confront and put away. But the most vital aspect of circumcising the heart and becoming more like Jesus is to spend time with God, sitting in His presence and allowing His quiet but steady work to act upon our hearts.

- ◆ This will require a measure of humility (Romans 12:1-3).
- ◆ Currently the Holy Spirit is calling the Lord's people to "come in" and sit with the Father. Many ministries are finding they are being called to put aside unnecessary issues and to be single-minded.
- ◆ We will not stand in what is coming unless we have aligned ourselves with the Father and allowed Him to do His work in the inner man of our heart. Our ministry anointing might be wonderful and good, but it alone will not see us through the days that lie ahead.
- ◆ The more we guard and nurture the heart the more we will conform to the image of Christ Jesus our pattern.

Chapter 2

INNER REALM CHANGE

1. THE HEART'S DESIRE

- ◆ There is one consistent and eternal sign of people who walk with God: they are **open to inner change**.
- ◆ There heart condition is a willingness to be transformed into something greater and more glorious!
- ◆ **Single-mindedness of heart**, seeking God's heart purposes is their greatest and all-consuming desire.
- ◆ Friendship with the Lord!
- ◆ God's heart is seeking our hearts. He is wooing us.
- ◆ Only an encounter with the Living God will change us. That is why He seeks us, for He knows that in our own natural flesh we do not truly desire Him. "**He first loved us.**"
- ◆ The prophets are telling us that great change is about to come, upon the earth and in the hearts of all people. But a greater, more eternal change is also on the horizon, the Restoration of God's people into **Sons of the Most High God** (*El Elyon*).

2. YIELDING TO GOD

- ◆ The time is ripe for us to **yield more** and more to God. To lay aside any pre-conceived ideas and traditions that are likely to make us stray.
- ◆ **Lay aside the false and embrace the real!** God wants to show us how He sees us. This will require humbleness of heart and strength of character.
- ◆ **Sincerity of heart.** The word sincere means "*without wax.*" It refers to a potter who, having made a vessel, found it has cracks. To deceive his customers he would put wax in the crack and cover the defect. To be sincere means nothing is flawed, nothing covered up, nothing is deceptive. God is looking for such vessels amongst His people.
- ◆ This is why God is putting His people through a time of testing. Vessels that are not sincere, vessels that have hidden defects will not be able to carry the anointing that's going to be poured out on the earth.
- ◆ The Lord is building His House, but it will not have any flaws in it. All the things we are going through and yet to go through are for one purpose only: to equip us a holy vessels.
- ◆ He has provided for us **a full measure of grace** to be prepared. Some will run

from the fire that is coming, others will run *to* it. Which one are you?

3. RESTORATION OF OUR HEARTS

- ◆ We need to know our destiny, for without that vision before us we will be left directionless. (Proverbs 29:18)
- ◆ **God has determined** a goal for us, and He wants us to keep this within our hearts and remember it. (Deuteronomy 6:20-23)
- ◆ There is a truth and promise for us here. Jesus did not save us just so we could wander directionless in the wilderness. God is determined to take you somewhere. In order for this to be fully accomplished our hearts need to be restored.
- ◆ He has brought us out of the darkness and translated us into His light! Alleluia!
- ◆ It is God's desire for us to **enter into His rest**; to experience His presence. He is determined that this should happen. But where are the people who desire this with all their heart?
- ◆ He has brought us out and He will take us in. (Luke 12:32)
- ◆ This is a tangible experience, and not something just to be enjoyed once we die and go the heaven.
- ◆ God is determined for us to rejoice and enter into His pleasure and purpose. Jesus even said that the stones and rocks can not contain this truth from being proclaimed. (Luke 19:40)
- ◆ There is **a choice to be made** in this hour. Do we want to be part of His entering in? Do we have the faith? (Hebrews 3:19)

4. A REGENERATE HEART

- ◆ Unregenerate hearts are like the stones God used for the Ten Commandments. But God's desire was for these to be written upon hearts of flesh (Jeremiah 31:33). Unregenerate hearts obey out of duty and compulsion; hearts of flesh serve Him out of love and desire.
- ◆ The Spirit of the Lord needs to enter into our hearts and melt them. We need change in the Inner Realm.
- ◆ God has been writing on the stony condition of the Church for a long time but now He wants to etch it on soft hearts, willing to receive it and respond to His wooing.
- ◆ Much restoration is happening in the Church, but the greatest restoration needs to be in the inner realm of our heart (spirit-man). (Psalm 40:6)
- ◆ This is a great revelation and truth. God does not want our services, our missionary outreach, our finance, our numbers, our sweat – He wants our

hearts!

- ◆ Psalm 84:5 - ***“How blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are the highways to Zion!”***
- ◆ Are our hearts fixed on God’s purposes? Are we changed so much within the Inner Realms of the heart that God can build His highways there? God’s desire has never changed. He desires to have many sons, who live from the inside out!

Chapter 3

LIVING FROM THE SPIRIT

1. THE SPIRITUAL MAN

- ◆ The Spiritual Man lives from his spirit, not from his mind life, the soul.
- ◆ We need to learn how to come into an “*Assembly of Believers*” and not just be individuals in a Meeting.
- ◆ Be a congregation of **one spirit**, mind and heart.
- ◆ When we meet in true spiritual unity there is a sense of the **quality** of the Holy Spirit’s presence
- ◆ There are “*laws of unity*” which have nothing to do with agreement of doctrines but are “*spiritual laws.*” Our growth in the Spirit depends on how much **spiritual substance or character** we have.
- ◆ We need the “discerning of spirits.” *But he who is spiritual judges (**discerns**) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.* (1 Corinthians 2:15)
- ◆ Such a spiritual man is beyond human and soulish judging because he is a “mystery” to people. He lives *in* and *from* a different realm, the spiritual!

2. THE MIND OF CHRIST

- ◆ We have the mind of Christ: *For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 2:16)
- ◆ This mind is not in our soul but in our **spiritual life**. It is gained both by being Born Again and by habitually abiding in the presence of the Lord.
- ◆ The mind of man can not receive the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14), if they do try to hold these it can only be done so by memorising them in our minds, not our spirits.
- ◆ By abiding in the presence of the Lord we can begin to receive all He has for us. The fruit of this will show in the **divine effect** our words and actions leave behind us as a deposit.
- ◆ Jesus always left a supernatural effect and deposit.
- ◆ If we do not have such an effect it means our soul is displacing Jesus. The mind sets itself up as “God” in the Temple of God. But if we walk in the Spirit we will never have failures.

3. BECOME A FATHER PLEASER (2 Corinthians 5:9)

- ◆ Jesus was a **Father Pleaser** (John 5:19 and 8:29).
- ◆ Since the Father is a spirit we can not know Him except by the spirit and we can not “see” Him except by spiritual eyes.
- ◆ Pleasing the Father is doing the things He shows us and saying the things He speaks to us (John 5:19, compare Luke 2:49).
- ◆ Enoch’s testimony was that he pleased God: “**for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.**” (Hebrews 11:5)
- ◆ Faith pleases God: “**But without faith it is impossible to please Him.**” (Hebrews 11:6)
- ◆ The flesh can not please God: “**So then, those who are in the flesh can not please God.**” (Romans 8:8)
- ◆ Jesus lost nothing even though He gave the Father all the glory! When we please the Father rather than ourselves we will in fact benefit much more than we can ever hope for.
- ◆ This is a **spiritual secret** that the spiritual man has learnt, to please the Father even to the hating of his own needs.

4. MIND OR SPIRIT?

- ◆ All our Knowledge and Learning can not produce spiritual results. We can learn *about* truths but they will not work.
- ◆ Our minds might think *like Jesus* but it still can not produce “life” or comprehend the things of God.
- ◆ If we do not learn how to distinguish (*divide*) our soul and spirit, then our minds will play “God” and attempt to direct and control us.
- ◆ The mind-soul might even “talk like God” and sound “spiritual” but it will not **be** Him. Many Christians fall into deception about hearing the voice of God thinking He has spoken to them when in fact it has been their own soul “playing God.”

5. EXPERIENCE BY THE SPIRIT

- ◆ It is with our spirit that we experience God. Growing up in Christ is not “learning” but experiencing.
- ◆ During a message or sermon “*lean forward in your spirit into*” the teaching. Never become passive in your spirit-man.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit has much to say when listening to a preacher, teacher, and so forth. We should be able to draw ten times more from the preacher than he is

in fact saying, by the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ Learn to mix the Word with Faith. This is not an ability of the mind but of the spirit: “**but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.** (Hebrews 4:2)
- ◆ The consequences of not doing this is that the Israelites died! There are drastic consequences when we do not live from the spirit.
- ◆ **We grow through intimacy**, both in the natural and spiritual realms. Intimate acts are done in a private, secret place. So too in the spiritual realm – intimacy with God is found in the secret place in the prayer closet (Matthew 6:6).
- ◆ Living in the Spirit and living from our spirit-man is **living and walking, saying and hearing, thinking and speaking, and working by faculties and senses that are non-existent in the natural man.** Exercise these spiritual senses (Hebrews 5:14).

Chapter 4

ABIDING AND RESTING IN CHRIST

1. ABIDING IN HIS REST

- ◆ Believing is not Abiding. To abide in Christ is to “rest” in Him.
- ◆ This rest is **a place** as well as a condition. The secret place of the heart (*spirit, inner man*) is where we can rest and abide in God.
- ◆ God’s rest is actually a spiritual place. “...*although the works were finished from the foundation of the world*” (Hebrews 4:3b). It has been prepared for us and finished. All we have to do is enter it!
- ◆ And we should have a concern that we *might not enter* into that rest (Hebrews 4:1 and 11).
- ◆ It is **belief** that allows us to enter (Hebrews 4:3) and this is linked directly to **obedience** (Hebrews 3:18-19).
- ◆ What is God’s rest? **It is the ability of inner character and power to perform the works of God without any energy of your own or without any failure.** This is how Jesus ministered (eg: John 5:19 and 12:50).
- ◆ So it is not a “restful” condition but an “active” one, but not one of our own work. It is the Lord at work in us!

2. BEHOLDING HIM

- ◆ First of all, do not think “mentally” because God thinks “spiritually” and so should we (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- ◆ Always remember that shallowness will drag you down and keep you from entering into more of God. Comfort always halts striving.
- ◆ Luke 5:16 - do we do this? Only what we do on a daily basis will pay off. This is a spiritual law in relation to prayer.
- ◆ Continuity will build up and increase.
- ◆ We need to become what we believe. The evidence of Abiding in Christ is that we increasingly have no failures! Most of what we believe does not work due to lack of applied faith.
- ◆ **”And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”** (Jeremiah 29:13) What is this seeking the Lord with all your heart?
- ◆ It is understanding that we will reap what we sow. there is a definite link between what we “give” to the Lord and what we we’re rewarded as a result of this. Time with the Lord always pays off – not that this should be our

motivation, but it nevertheless is a spiritual law.

- ◆ Beholding Him is fixing our mind on Him in the secret place. This is the inner man, our spirit, heart. For the Hebrew writers the heart was in fact the “belly” of a person. Compare John 7:38.
- ◆ Meditate on (*behold*) the Lord in the inner realm of your spirit. This is not a New Age or Hindu technique – it is learning to constantly focus on our God. The Hebrew word for meditate means to “*chew over*” or “*to revolve in the mind.*”
- ◆ **Looking (away) unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.** (Hebrews 12:2)

3. IN HIS IMAGE

- ◆ The evidence that we are Abiding in Christ, resting in Him and growing to be more like Him, is that we begin to do the works of Jesus with consistent performance. Failure and discouragement effect us less and less.
- ◆ What deposit do we leave behind us after we have ministered? Do we impart life to others?
- ◆ Becoming more like Jesus in His image is daily denying your self-life (Luke 9:23). Being an overcomer is vital. We need to work at this – we start by beholding the Lord in the secret place (Matthew 6:6).
- ◆ We need to discern the three areas of our Body, Soul and Spirit. Each has “compartments.” This will help us live from our spirit and not the soul.

Body	Soul	Spirit
1. Flesh 2. Blood 3. Bones	1. Intellect 2. Emotion 3. Will	1. Conscious faculty 2. Communion faculty 3. Intuitive faculty

- ◆ Learn to divide the **intuitive faculty** (number three of the spirit) from the **intellectual faculty** (number one of the soul) in order to walk with God. This is how Jesus lived and ministered.
- ◆ **Intuition is knowing without learning.** It is something gained entirely by communion with the Father and being taught by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ The Communion (or *Contacting, Communicating*) faculty allows you to **SEE** what the Father is doing. The Intuitive faculty lets you **HEAR** what He is saying. Just like Jesus. In His image!

4. SINGLE-MINDED

- ◆ Be **single-minded** about becoming like Jesus. (Compare Matthew 6:33, Psalm 27:4, Jeremiah 29:13, Hebrews 3:14 and Hebrews 11:6.)

- ◆ Be concerned to have a certain **quality about living spiritually**, for at the Bema Seat of Christ it will be weighed. Our daily life needs to be lived in holiness and righteousness.
- ◆ Learn to be single-minded about the spiritual laws of the heart otherwise we will live according to the dictates of the mind – and our mind can not receive spiritual truths.
- ◆ There are keys to the Kingdom, but **the greatest key** is having a habitual, intimate relationship with Jesus. When we come to this place we will receive the wisdom of God for daily living and Revelation works that will empower us (Ephesians 1:17).
- ◆ When our heart is single-minded and focussed God actively works within our spirit to bring about **Wisdom**. Wisdom is “applied knowledge.”
- ◆ Practicing being single-minded is not a mental technique but a spiritual one. We have a responsibility to grow up into Christ.
- ◆ Becoming single-minded about our relationship with Jesus will result in **the Seven Spirits of God** (Isaiah 11:2) being perfected within us – it is then that we truly abide and rest in Christ.

Chapter 5

ARE WE DOING THIS?

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?

- ◆ *"**Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**" (Luke 21:36)*
- ◆ Are we doing this?
- ◆ The Lord has told us to "be" about a number of things that are for our spiritual and physical benefit. In some cases ignoring them will be to the detriment of our lives.
- ◆ Possibly the greatest threat to today's Church is the laxity with which we treat the Word. For example, how many of us are habitually watching and praying to escape the things that are coming? (Luke 21:36) Are we serious about this?
- ◆ *"**But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**" (1 Peter 4:7)*
- ◆ Here we are quite specifically told to *do* something: be watchful, be at prayer, be serious about it. Are we?

2. PAY ATTENTION

There are a number of scriptures that urge us to be alert. Each one of these texts insists that we pay attention to what the Spirit is saying through the text. Meditate on these verses.

- ◆ *"**Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.**" (Titus 2:13)*
- ◆ *"**Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for** new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, **looking forward to these things**, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.**" (2 Peter 3:12-14)*
- ◆ *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but **having seen them afar off** were assured of them, **embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.**" (Hebrews 11:13)*
- ◆ *"**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.**" (Colossians 3:2)*
- ◆ *"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which **we also eagerly wait** for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)*

- ◆ "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'" (Luke 17:10)

Are we doing these things?

3. ACTING ON OUR BELIEF

- ◆ The Word is given for our edification (*building up*). If we do not act out what it clearly says, we will not grow to our full stature (Ephesians 4:13).
- ◆ For instance, we might fully believe in a literal, personal and physical return of Jesus to earth. But if we're not "*looking for it*" and "*eagerly awaiting*" His return, then we are NOT fully believing the Word! To "believe" in Greek means more than to give mental assent; it also means to "act on".
- ◆ In fact, 2 Peter 3:12 says that we should be looking for the return of Jesus and in doing so we actually hasten His coming. Now that is challenging theology! But that is what the Bible says.
- ◆ If we are actively looking for the Lord's return, eagerly desiring it, and looking forward to it happening, then we are helping it to come about. I do not understand all the meaning behind it but that is what the Word of God says – we hasten His return.
- ◆ So on this level alone we can see that we're being commanded by God to do something. So there must be other verses that are "directive texts" that we have probably overlooked as well.
- ◆ Paul encourages us to keep a right focus, on heavenly issues not on earthly concerns. Even on this level, if we did this and acted on the Word we would be a whole lot better off. How many times a day do we lose our focus and let the world redirect our gaze? The Word is giving us the antidote – ***set your mind on things above*** (Colossians 3:2).

4. NEXT STEP

- ◆ Most of the difficulties we face revolve around not bridging the gap between "doctrine" and "application."
- ◆ We believe alright but often find it hard to act out that belief and apply it to our daily walk.
- ◆ This is one of the most glaring omissions in training and equipping today's saints. We know an awful lot about doctrines and teachings, but not so much on how to apply them so that they bring us to maturity.
- ◆ The Jewish (and therefore Biblical) concept of equipping was to teach "on the job" - hence Jesus' statement, "*Come follow me*" and see what I do. There are plenty out there who will teach you, but not so many who will show you how to apply that teaching.

- ◆ I believe that this will be rectified in the coming release of the Five Fold ministry.

But even if we did not have the Biblical concept of leadership (i.e. local Elders and trans-local Five Fold ministry), we still have the Word to instruct us.

As seen earlier, there are a number of texts that insist that we “perform” them. **Doing what they say.** I encourage and challenge you to re-read those Scriptures and begin to do what they say. **The rewards come only when we do what the Word says should be done.**

Chapter 6

THE VOICE OF GOD

1. PREPARING TO HEAR

- ◆ In order to clearly hear the Voice of God we must clean up our inner thoughts and take control over our mind. We need to **take captive our own thoughts** and imaginations. (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- ◆ The best preparation to hear the Lord's voice is to stop the **incessant chattering** away in our own mind first.
- ◆ This can be done by having a **single-minded focus** on the Lord and eternal things. Learn to "*prayer without ceasing*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and by "*beholding the Lord.*" This will quieten the wandering thoughts of the mind.
- ◆ Next, learn to act immediately on a convicting word from the Holy Spirit. Whenever you **feel a conviction of sin, deal with it** immediately. Do not allow it to fester into something worse – particularly apathy. Rebellion follows!
- ◆ We need to acquire the habit of allowing our actions to link up with our thoughts. **Harmony of spirit and soul** is an important step in clearly hearing the Voice of God.

2. IS THERE ANY PATTERN?

- ◆ Experience and history shows a **clear pattern** of how men and women through the centuries have come to know the voice of God without confusion, struggle or deceit.
- ◆ The most common denominator of all such mature Christians has been this: **spend at least one uninterrupted hour a day sitting in the presence of the Lord.**
- ◆ This is apart from a time of intercession or supplication when you might be asking God for something. And it is apart from your time of devotional reading time or study time.
- ◆ Having given prime time to sitting in the presence of the Lord, these mature Christians then "practice" the art of "**on and off praying**," speaking to the Lord throughout the day in short uncomplicated prayers (often called *arrow prayers*).
- ◆ This kind of prayer was used often by such men as Wesley, Moody and Finney. The fruit of living in the Spirit like this is seen in their lives and ministries even down to the present day.
- ◆ Doing this will make you very receptive to the Holy Spirit and you will begin to find the Voice of God to be much more distinct.
- ◆ This is a two-fold approach in preparing to hear His Voice. First, spend some

time (perhaps one hour) in which you quietly focus in on the Lord and just learn to sit and relax at His feet. Second, learn to extend that “atmosphere” of being with Him into your daily life. This is done by continually keeping your focus God-directed. Both of these will gradually prepare your heart to clearly hear the Voice of the Lord. It does work!

3. LEARN TO IDENTIFY THE VOICE

- ◆ Think back on some occasion when you thought you heard God speak, and when you then saw the situation come to pass. Think now: what were you feeling at the time when you thought you heard God speak? Learn to pick up the sensations you were having when the voice came. Next time you think you hear God’s voice use this past experience as a kind of litmus test. Was the feeling or sensation similar to your previous experience? If it was, it is most probably God speaking again.
- ◆ I am not saying you are to simply go by feelings but they can assist you to make a correct diagnosis when attempting to identify His voice. You know the past experience proved to be of God’s making thus validating the voice you had heard. So when that sensation comes again accompanied by a similar voice it may well be the Lord speaking to you.
- ◆ This might seem a strange way to identify His voice, but its surprisingly common. It is just that a lot of people do not link the two – God’s voice, and what they were feeling or sensing at the time. My own experience has proved this truth over and over.
- ◆ Eventually you become so fine-tuned to the Lord’s voice that you no longer pay attention to the sensation that accompanies it. This is a sign of spiritual growth. Identifying the sensation is solely to help you be confident about what voice you’re hearing.

Remember too that God’s voice might be urgent but never pushy. The Lord might *hasten* you to do something but Satan will *drive* you! Learn to know the difference.

4. A RECEPTIVE HEART

- ◆ While there is no formula for hearing God’s voice or making Him communicate with us, there are some basic ground rules that will make us more sensitive to His voice.
 - First**, love Him more deeply and intimately.
 - Second**, desire to know Him more intently and personally.
 - Third**, seek Him above everything else.
- ◆ If we keep these three attitudes in our heart we will become much more sensitive to the voice of the Spirit. Taste and see!

5. STEPS THAT WILL IMPROVE YOUR SENSITIVITY

- ◆ Approach Him with an open heart, willing to listen to whatever He might speak.

Do not approach Him with your mind already imaging what He might say.

- ◆ Do not ask God to speak to you about something that's already quite clear in Scripture. He has already spoken.
- ◆ Do not limit God to your viewpoint. He is not confined to answer you according to your view. It might be quite different!
- ◆ When you do hear God speak, obey Him.
- ◆ Show your love to Him through worship and serving others.
- ◆ Work at deepening your trust and faith in the Lord, no matter what. A genuine Spirit-led lifestyle is a great asset in knowing His voice. (Galatians 5:25 and 1 Corinthians 10:31)

**Honour and love God
above everything
and everyone else.**

Chapter 7

LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF LEADERSHIP – MINISTRY

- ◆ Ministry is not just about actions and words. It is an impartation of life. This should be the one aim of all leadership ministry.
- ◆ What we “have” goes out from us to another person.
- ◆ Godly character originates in the Presence (literally “face”) of God.
- ◆ It is from the “secret place” that true leadership and motivation spring. Our unction to lead arises out of abiding in this place. Anything that substitutes this will bring death! Do not feed them knowledge (Genesis 2:17), people need, and want, Life!
- ◆ When others submit to our leadership, when they receive “ministry” from us, it can effect their spirit, soul, body or a combination of two or three of these.
- ◆ This is why leadership is an act of Serving. You are giving of yourself to others. You actually “serve them up” a portion of yourself! Do you really want to give someone else a part of what you are really like inside?
- ◆ Who we are in the Secret Place with God determines our ministry destiny. People subconsciously (or consciously) are looking to see Jesus in us!

2. TOUCHING THE HEART

- ◆ Our leadership *must* touch the heart if it is to bring life to others. Leadership is not about “leading” people; it is about bringing them to a place of life in Christ (life in the Anointing).
- ◆ The quality of our leadership is determined by what *deposit* of spiritual life we leave behind after we have gone. It is not always the case that we will be recognised as good leaders while we are still in the position of Leader!
- ◆ God’s life flows between people in the realm of our spirit man. If there is no such flow happening between hearts, even though there might be a genuine impartation of help and assistance to the recipient’ s body or soul, there has been no *spiritual life* imparted.
- ◆ Aim always to do this. No matter how often you fail in it, aim for it. See it as your goal; to be remembered as a leader who imparted life to others.
- ◆ Like it or not, our ministry will reproduce itself in the life of others! A sobering thought. Each ministry tends to reproduce itself in others.
- ◆ Some ministries and leaders actually try to duplicate themselves in others; they knowingly or unknowingly produce clones.

- ◆ Always be on guard that you are not out to duplicate yourself in others. Reproducing what life you have in others is acceptable, but do not clone yourself.

3. IT IS GOD'S HOUSE

- ◆ As we lead God's people we must realise that the House of God is being built **in the Heavens**.
- ◆ It's expression will be manifest *on* the earth, but the reality of it is *in* the Heavens.
- ◆ We are to learn to minister from a position of being seated with Christ. We must have a **perspective, authority** and a **sense of destiny** established in the heavens if we are to build successfully on the earth. (1 Corinthians 3:10 – *let each one take heed how he builds.*)
- ◆ We are **servants** and **builders**. Our heart attitude is vital. A sign of Godly leadership is when we see lives built and joined together through the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Man's ability to lead will bring people into bondage and eventually destroy them. **Godly leadership builds and strengthens**. This can be used as a thermometer to check the validity of our leadership.
- ◆ As we are faithful and obedient to God's call on our lives, He will extend our sphere of leadership. Recognise your boundaries at each stage of growth as a Leader. Do not go beyond them until God has released you into that new level. One sign of mature leadership is **practical wisdom!**
- ◆ **Aim for quality** of leadership; avoid the desire to want to be recognised as someone who is important, has a calling, is a good leader, and so on.
- ◆ Sadly, it is pride or the lack of recognition that is **the** greatest fault of Christian leadership today.

4. THE PRICE!

- ◆ Everything that we do as leaders **will be tested by God**. He will do this to see whether our work is good or bad, fruitful or barren. He does this for our benefit, so we can see if we have built properly or not.
- ◆ God wants something that will stand. There is darkness ahead of us, so He will test and refine what we do as leaders. Only what He approves of will stand in that day (Hebrews 12:26-27 – *"Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which can not be shaken **may remain.***)
- ◆ So there is a price to pay. No-one should even think of becoming a leader of God's people unless they are willing to lay down their own ambition and pay

the price. If you do not, it will catch up with you and haunt your ministry all the days of your life!

- ◆ In the end there is one basic, eternal and life imparting truth that stands out above all other leadership qualities and principles;

**We can only pass on to others
what we have experienced in our own lives
through the grace of God.**

Chapter 8

THE PROPHETIC IN LEADERSHIP

1. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “THE PROPHETIC?”

- ◆ The term “*prophet*” and “*the prophetic*” these days has come to mean virtually the same thing – something to do with giving correct Words to encourage and build up. But there is a vast difference between the two terms.
- ◆ “*Prophet*” has a fairly narrow term of reference, but “*the prophetic*” covers a much greater area. It basically means **an anointed ministry, that in revealing divine direction during a given season, points you to new life in God.**
- ◆ It may not even include a single Prophetic Word! And the person giving the counsel of God may not even hold the office of Prophet!
- ◆ Rather, it is a person who is open to the voice of the Holy Spirit and who knows how to offer a Rhema Word of counsel from the throne room of heaven – without taint.
- ◆ Note that I say “*counsel*” and not “*advice*.” Avoid Christians who give you advice. That is man’s view of a matter, and it may sound reasonable, logical, sensible and even a little “spiritual,” but it is still Man and not God.
- ◆ So the Prophetic Person speaks from God’s mind, thereby avoiding the “advice” of the human mind and experience (Proverbs 16:1 and 9).

2. THE ROLE OF THE PROPHETIC PERSON

- ◆ Let us look again at my definition of *the Prophetic* – **(1) an anointed ministry, (2) that in revealing divine direction, (3) during a given season, (4) that opens you to new life in God.**
- ◆ There are four points in this that are vital to understand:
 1. an anointed ministry
 2. revealing divine direction
 3. during a given season
 4. that opens you to new life in God.
- ◆ **First**, the ministry or person needs to be Anointed. The word means to be “*enchristened*” and refers to being Christ-like. [Strong’s G5548 – *chrio* has the idea of contact, to smear or rub with oil, and by implication to consecrate.]
- ◆ In other words, the person needs to be in contact with the Christ, to be smeared and covered with the same anointing that Jesus had, and to be set aside (consecrated) to that calling and work. We need to look for such an heart attitude in the person we are intending to trust, minister or allow us to lead.

- ◆ **Second**, the prophetic person will not give advice, but reveal to you God's direction for that moment or next stage of your life. They will reveal (*"take off the cover, disclose"*) what God wants you to see and know.
- ◆ They will not add their bit to it nor attempt to direct you; they will "take off the cover" over your mind, life and spiritual eyes, allowing you to see what God alone wants.
- ◆ The Prophetic Person must never be tempted to "give soulish direction" but must allow God to speak, and God alone.
- ◆ **Third**, the revealing of God's ways comes during set seasons, and rarely as regular occurrences. The Lord has given us the natural seasons, the seasons of one's life, and even the seasonal feasts of Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, as parables of how He works in us.
- ◆ He uses seasons or "stages" to instruct us because the in-between times are meant for us to learn how to apply the teaching and lesson presented by Him.
- ◆ A wise person will take advantage of these seasons of God and draw as much as possible from them. To ignore them brings us into disobedience and stunts our spiritual growth.
- ◆ Each season has its own spiritual character, just like the natural seasons can be identified by how much heat, cold, rain, snow, and so on, is in them.
- ◆ The Prophetic will speak revelation into these seasons of our life. It is vital that we listen to the Rhema Word and act on it. We will not advance to the next season of our spiritual development until we have lived through the season God gives at that appointed time. We can not short circuit God's dealings with us!
- ◆ Have you noticed that prophetic ministries have the knack of turning up at just the right season and imparting a Word that brings change? This is a noticeable feature of their calling.
- ◆ **Fourth**, the ministry of the Prophetic will always lead you into a new realm in God. It imparts life and it transforms.
- ◆ This is one way you can gauge the validity of a prophetic ministry – have they deposited truth and change

3. LEADING WITH THE PROPHETIC

- ◆ Do not be tempted to see the prophetic as some sort of wonder tool that will bring instant revelation and guidance to those you are shepherding. Keep your eyes on Jesus, not the prophetic – no matter how anointed and effective it might be.
- ◆ Allow others to see that you model this lifestyle by sharing your own experiences of how the prophetic has helped you. They need to know they can trust this type of guidance.

- ◆ Once a person has received counsel from you on a matter, you will need to “re-adjust” them from time to time as they begin to apply the Truth in their situation. This may happen a number of times before it “clicks.” Be patient.
- ◆ Keep humble in all this. Often those you are shepherding will perceive your prophetic guidance as great wisdom, and may be tempted to idolise you.

Some pointers from my own experience:

1. Speak and minister with authority.
2. Try to bring the person to a place of accountability regarding the counsel you have given.
3. Be wary of their words as they are often couched in spiritual jargon, but behind it can be self-interest, ambition and a hasty spirit.
4. Look for the motives behind their heart.
5. Do not be afraid to be bold in declaring what you know God is saying to the person.
6. Check your own spirit so you know it is not your advice you are giving but what God wants to say.
7. Use the occasion to teach *and* impart God’s ways to the person (Psalm 25:4).

Chapter 9

PROPHETIC CALL AND COMMISSION

1. EZEKIEL'S CALLING

- ◆ This study is based on the life of Ezekiel (chapters 2 and 3). Ezekiel, meaning *God will strengthen*, serves as an example of the call on a prophetic person. We will look at his **Calling, Preparation** and **Commissioning**.
- ◆ He is told his prophetic life will be one of hardship and persecution (Ezekiel 2:6).
- ◆ His message comes directly from God in scroll-form and he is told to eat it (Ezekiel 3:1-2, compare with Revelation 10:9).
- ◆ There would be times of silence imposed upon him. (Ezekiel 3:26, 24:27 and 33:22)
- ◆ He would be given a heavy burden of being responsible for the destiny or doom of his people. He could be relieved of it only if he faithfully declared the prophetic word.
- ◆ Only after his mission would he be recognised as a prophet from God (Ezekiel 2:5)

2. THE PREPARATION (Ezekiel 1:28 and 2:1-2)

- ◆ The preparation of a prophet requires him:
 1. **to be made weak** in his own strength before he can become strong in God's strength.
 2. **to lie prostrate** before God before he can stand before God.
 3. **to be emptied of self** before he can be enabled by God.
 4. **to place worship before service.**
 5. **to learn that abasement of self** precedes being exalted by God.
- ◆ Note that God's intention here is the **formation of the soul** first, rather than the giving of the spiritual gift. The gifting requires **an ordered soul** for it to come to maturity.

3. PROGRESSION OF THE CALLING

- ◆ There seems to be a **four fold** progression in a prophet's calling. This is based on the Biblical accounts of many of God's prophets, as well as a common theme among those called by Him today.

1. God **gives His word** to His chosen person.
 2. The Spirit of God **enters into His chosen one**.
 3. God's person **stands up** knowing his destiny.
 4. God's person **hears the call** and commission.
- ◆ There comes a time when God's person begins to stand up and do the work he is called to. Get the timing wrong and it becomes self-promotion.
 - ◆ The sequence of events in Ezekiel 2:1-7 and 8-10 is important:
 1. God **prepares** His prophet with a divine encounter.
 2. When this work has been established, God requires the actual **work to be done**.

4. THE COMMISSION

- ◆ There is a **Five Fold Commission** found in chapters 2 and 3 of Ezekiel.
 1. As a **prophet** (Ezekiel 2:1-10)
 2. As a **fearless denunciator** (Ezekiel 3:1-9)
 3. As **God's mouthpiece** (Ezekiel 3:10-15)
 4. As a **watchman** (Ezekiel 3:16-21)
 5. As a **faithful herald** (Ezekiel 3:22-27)
- ◆ Not every prophetic person will be commissioned with this five fold calling, but each characteristic will be evident at different times and in varying degrees during a ministry.
- ◆ Note the difference between being commissioned as a *Prophet* and being called to be *God's mouthpiece*. The former is a **general** calling; the latter is a **specific** calling to a special group (in this case the Exiles in Babylon).
- ◆ This is a principle to consider. A prophetic person needs to clarify from time to time to whom they are called to speak.
- ◆ An important principle is also found in Ezekiel 2:8. Prophets are themselves to **personally digest the word** before speaking it out. Often the hearers will discern the difference and judge it on that basis.
- ◆ The implication of this is for the prophet to spend time reflecting and digesting the word given by God.
- ◆ Having waited on the Lord in this way helps the person from falling into pride and enables them to deliver the word in humility of spirit.

5. HALLMARKS OF A PROPHETIC MINISTRY

- ◆ There seem to be at least **seven hallmarks** of a person entering into a prophetic ministry. These are based on Ezekiel 2:8-3:16.

The seven hallmarks are:

So we can see from Ezekiel's life and calling that there are many issues to be mediated upon. Any person called to the prophetic should take heed of what God has purposely revealed in His Word pertaining to a prophet's call – and humbly regard them as worthy of imitation.

1	2:8-10	The prophet participates in the sufferings of his own people. He understands them and identifies with them whether he likes it or not!
2	3:1-3	The prophet must feed on his own message eating what he gives to others.
3	3:4	The prophet is to speak with God's words and not any of his own making.
4	3:8-9	The prophet receives the fortitude to withstand all kinds of hostile opposition. Grace is given for his special task.
5	3:14	The prophet has God's hand upon him and woe to those who lay a hostile act on the messenger of the living God!
6	3:15	The prophet sits where they sit, on the level of the people, not lording it over them.
7	3:16	The prophet's ministry begins with silence, not words.

Chapter 10

PROPHETIC PRINCIPLES

1. THE PROPHET'S SPIRIT

- ◆ Prophets prepare the way of the Lord.
- ◆ But they also prepare the people *for* the Lord.
- ◆ God's prophets are preparing the Church to become the Bride of Christ.
- ◆ Therefore they must not be loners; teamwork ministry is vital
- ◆ See Acts 11:27, 13:1, 15:32, Ephesians 2:20 and Revelation 18:20.
- ◆ The character of the Prophet is important. It is the character of the prophet that carries the anointing. Anointing by itself will not carry you through into mature ministry.
- ◆ During this preparation time God will hide the prophetic person away until they have been purified.
- ◆ This hiding away deals with the prophet's inner life and is as much for his own protection as for his preparation.
- ◆ God took Elijah to the brook called Cherith. The word means "*to cut off.*" Elijah was cut off from public view. He was cut off from relying too much on any natural talent he might have had. He was also cut off from anything that might adversely effect his future ministry.
- ◆ Before the prophet gains much acceptance things are likely to get worse before they get better. Be alert about this. Non-recognition of a prophetic ministry has been the downfall of many who wanted instant acceptance and a pulpit.
- ◆ Many prophetic people suffer from bouts of rejection, at least at the beginning of their ministry. Watch this, because blaming others, self-justification and repressed hurt will act like a cancer in the prophet's heart.
- ◆ Learn submission, even if the Eldership are in the wrong.
- ◆ Flee from Balaam's sin of seeking greed, power, gain and popularity.
- ◆ Stick to Biblical principles and persevere with them. Be patient as you learn about how the Spirit sets you within the context of the local Body.
- ◆ Be accountable for what you say. Some prophetic ministries will say extravagant things but not take accountability for them when things do not turn out right. Have integrity!
- ◆ Do not justify your ministry. If you believe you have done what God wanted, let

Him vindicate you. Remain humble and admit error if there was any. But do not excuse the work of the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ Seek wise counsel from more mature ministries. Do not think you can go it alone. Join or belong to a Prophetic Presbytery.
- ◆ Be cautious about prophesying about romances, marriages, births and genders of children.
- ◆ When giving a prophetic word ensure that there is a witness there, or at least, tape the word on a cassette.

2. RECEIVING THE MANTLE

- ◆ Learn to submit to God's chosen government and leadership; respect those in authority over you.
- ◆ Be faithful in what you have been given to do.
- ◆ Serve the brethren.
- ◆ Understand the need to wait on God's timing before you launch out into public ministry.
- ◆ Surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit is vital if you want your character to grow in strength.
- ◆ Exercise your spiritual gifting as much as possible; learn to be more and more sensitive in the spirit realm.
- ◆ Study the lives of anointed men and women of God, both in the Bible and throughout Church history. Glean from them what is important for you.
- ◆ Deliver what God gives you; avoid adding your introductions, interpretations, mini-sermons, and so forth.
- ◆ Do not allow the snare of Fear of Man to entrap you, and do not be afraid of delivering the oracles of God.
- ◆ Learn to be bold in delivering the Word of the Lord, but avoid falling over into arrogance and pride.
- ◆ Do not go out into ministry or consider you even have a ministry until the Body of Christ recognises your calling. You are not to go out on your own volition, you are to wait until the Church calls you out.
- ◆ The exception to this is when God Himself urges you to go out – this is less common than many people think.

3. PROPHETIC TYPES

- ◆ There are various levels of the prophetic, and this will show in their ability,

giftings, accuracy and expertise in ministering the Word correctly. The following chart indicates the types of prophetic ministries that God is raising up today.

- ◆ Prophets are there to serve the brethren, not lord it over them. Do not enter into “direction” or “church government,” these are areas designated by God to the Eldership.

1	Sons of the Prophets	In training, often attached to a mature ministry
2	Local Church Prophets	Often confined to this local ministry only
3	City Wide Prophets	Honoured amongst the city and easily cross denominational barriers
4	Nation Wide Prophets	Powerful within their nation but often not so anointed outside of their boundaries
5	Fellowship or Network Prophets	Accepted and honoured within a certain movement or network of churches
6	International Prophets	Called to the nations and accepted as such
7	Political Daniel-Type Prophets	Have great wisdom and revelation to speak into business, politics and even the military. Often hidden away.

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