



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MINISTRY SCHOOL Lesson 8 How To Function As A Minister (Part One).

INTRODUCTION

We have been examining the powerful principle that every Disciple of Christ is a Minister. The myriad of church members who seat in the pews every Sunday are called by the scriptures, Ministers of Reconciliation, that is The Gospel. Every single person has a God given gift or set of gifts, that have to be deplored for the Church and the world in which they live.

Last session we looked intently at the three biblical abilities of every true Believer. The scriptures explained to us that each Christian had the capacity to function as a Priest, a Prince and Prophet. These three areas of function for the New Testament Believer overlap but are also distinct. If every Christian understood these revelations properly, the Church as a whole would deliver the agenda of God better, quicker, and more holistically. We will now look at each of these areas of function so that there would be no ambiguity around what is biblically required of us as believers.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on **all flesh**;
Your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy**,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.
Acts 2:17-18*

*And have made us **kings** and **priests** to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.” Rev 5:10
You have made them to be a kingdom [of royal subjects] and priests to our God; and they will
reign on the earth.”
Rev 5:10 AMP*



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PART ONE-THE PROPHETIC MINISTER

Just to be very clear, we are not teaching that every Christian is a Prophet, but that every Believer is called to be PROPHETIC. In other words, every New Testament Believer now has the same Spirit that was on the Old Testament Prophets and that they can prophesy and be moved by that same Spirit according to New Testament scriptures. It is clear from Scripture that everyone who believes has the Spirit of God:

And because you are **sons**, God has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** into **your hearts**, crying out "Abba Father!" Galatians 4:6

This Holy Spirit equips the New Testament Believer with the grace to prophecy as He wills: **...to another prophecy...but one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:10-11**

According to Paul, he believed that everyone could speak in tongues and everyone could prophesy:

I wish you **all spoke with tongues, but even more that your prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues... 1 Corinthians 14:5**

These scriptures and many more like them in the New Testament show that the Holy Spirit in the Believer enables, empowers, and equips for life and ministry. We will now look a bit more in-depth, at the relationship between you and the Spirit of God within you. This dynamic is what creates the capacity for the Christian to **behave prophetically**.

The key distinctive of the Old Testament Prophets was that they had a **very personal** and **strong relationship** with God. They spoke on behalf of God and their audience knew that their word was more than mere human. They lived devoted lifestyles and would retreat to spend time in communication with God. This is what it means to be Prophetic; the performance and the practice aligned together. In other words, your private and public lives **are the same**. This is what it means to be authentic.

We will now look into some of the private practices of the Prophetic Minister. Do understand that this represents **the core of your true person and informs** your Priestly and Princely roles that we will look at later. Your private life informs your public service.



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PRAYER versus COMMUNION

²² There I will meet with you; from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, I will speak [intimately] with you regarding every commandment that I will give you for the Israelites.

Exodus 25:22

⁶ But when you pray, go into your most private room, close the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees [what is done] in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

Life as a baby consists primarily of eating, sleeping, and playing. Everything evolves around the toddler and life is all about pleasure and receiving love, life, and lactation! Paul described himself as a child but that he had to grow up and put away childish things. Some Christians are still Babies, which was the frustration of the Apostle in this scripture

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

1 Corinthians 3:1-2

So, we see from this passage that you can be an adult but spiritually a Baby! Those who constantly go to God as their Father primarily to TAKE from Him and not to SERVE Him can be considered Babies. If a person's prayer starts from the 'sixth line' of the Lord's Prayer; ".....give us this day our daily bread.." whilst skipping the first lines of worship of the Father and echoing His agenda on Earth: that person is more of a taker than server.

Those who pray from their soul and not from their spirit are generally self-serving and not true worshippers. Prayer is supposed to be Communion not an 'invoice'.

³ You ask [God for something] and do not receive it, because you ask ^(d)with wrong motives [out of selfishness or with an unrighteous agenda], so that [when you get what you want] you may spend it on your [hedonistic] desires.

James 4:3

FASTING versus LEGALISM

⁵ Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1Corinthians 7:5

²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:27

The general principle of Fasting is to 'humble' the soul and body so that the spirit can have more expression and control. True Fasting is not a religious exercise to be practiced during particular periods but a lifestyle that allows the human spirit and the Holy Spirit to lead.



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The Minister of God should develop a way of life that enables the flesh remain crucified and the spirit man liberated. The scriptures admonish us to “**watch and pray** because the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” Mk 14:38. Therefore we need to allow the fruit of the spirit that is Self-Control manifest in our lives as Ministers of the Gospel. Many a fallen Minister failed in this area of ‘fasting’. We will touch more on this in LEADERSHIP SCHOOL.

WORD INTAKE

¹²For the word of God is living and active *and* full of power [making it operative, energizing, and effective]. It is sharper than any two-edged [Ⓛ]sword, penetrating as far as the division of the [Ⓛ]soul and spirit [the completeness of a person], and of both joints and marrow [the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* judging the very thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

The Spirit of the verse is

The Bible is “Living Energy”

The Words contained in the Bible are ALIVE

They are more than mere spoken words of men

They contain divine life and energy

There is effectual power within the Word

The Word ‘cuts’

It separates that which is spiritual from that which is natural from that which is soulish.

The Word is like an effective very sharp blade that cuts incisively

The Word washes ‘shampoos’ the soul and mind

It lays bare the soul

It critics and analyses the thoughts and identifies the spirit behind every action

It reaches every part of our being

It lays bare everything, and nothing is hidden from the scanning power of the Word



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SPIRITUAL GIFTS

⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by ¹⁰ the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

The key difference between this list of spiritual gifts and other ministry ones is that this list can manifest in every Christian at the discretion of the Holy Spirit. In other words, as the situation demands, the Believer can utilise each of these spiritual gifts as the Holy Spirit leads her or him.

REVELATION AND DISCERNMENT

But *there is a spirit in man*, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

Job 32:8

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

Ephesians 1:17

The Christian must allow the Holy Spirit to provide spiritual information that is not attainable through the human mind or natural sources. God's wisdom and way of doing things are usually very different from man's approach. Our ability to access this more often when situations arise is what makes us prophetic Ministers.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

¹⁹ ¹⁹ Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and **spiritual songs**, [offering praise by] **singing** and **making melody with your heart to the Lord**; ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for all things, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Ephesians 5:19-20

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive [because it does not understand what my spirit is praying]. ¹⁵ Then what am I to do? I will pray with the ¹⁴spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will pray with the mind [using words I understand]; I will sing with the spirit [by the Holy Spirit that is within me] and I will sing with the mind [using words I understand].

Using anointed music and worshipping God in spirit helps to align our lives with Heaven and God's Will. Worship is good for the Believer. Giving thanks and singing spiritual songs are not mere action but supernatural exercises. Praying with your heavenly language or praying with your natural language by the Spirit of God is very powerful. These help the prophetic flow of our lives and can be spiritual weapons to overcome depression, darkness and the devil.



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QUIETNESS & REST

³⁵ Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left [the house], and went out to a secluded place, and was praying there.

Mark 1:35

He lets me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still and quiet waters.

³ He refreshes and restores my soul (life);

Psalm 23:3

Believers need to create space to rest and refresh themselves. The ability to switch off from the hustle and bustle of life was something the Prophets of old were very good at. They would retreat to a cave or a mountain to be with God. Learn to add 'quietness' into the noise of your life so that you do not miss the 'whispers' of God.

HOMEWORK

Read Foundation School Lesson 6 and study the scriptures about Spirit, Soul and Body. Fully digest and understand it in the light of this week's lesson about Prophetic Ministry.