

RESPONDING TO A PROPHETIC WORD

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1. THE POSTURE OF A PROPHETIC VESSEL

“Desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” – 1 Corinthians 14:1

God commands us to earnestly desire and covet the prophetic ministry (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1, 39).

Personal prophecy is God’s specific word to an individual, while corporate prophecy is His specific word to a group of people. The same principles apply in both cases.

The benefit of prophecy is exhortation, comfort, and edification—the very areas that often become battlegrounds in a believer’s life.

The Postures Includes:

A. Faith

“It will be done according to your faith.” – Matthew 9:29
Faith receives the prophetic. And faith comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17).

This means the more you understand the prophetic, the greater your faith will grow to walk in its benefits.

B. Obedience

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” – Matthew 7:24

When the Lord speaks a word to us, it is not to tickle our intellect but to bring understanding that enables us to do His will.

C. Patience

“We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” – Hebrews 6:12

The promises of God take time. The best way to handle that process is to develop patience—an essential ingredient to add to our faith. God even calls it a virtue worth imitating.

D. Humility, Meekness, and Submission

Responding properly to a prophetic word requires receiving it in a spirit of humility, meekness, and submission. When we respond with pride, anger, doubt, resentment, criticism, self-justification, or arrogance, we reveal immaturity or a wrong spirit. A wrong attitude can neutralize much of what God intends to accomplish through the prophetic word.

2. PRESERVING THE WORD OF THE LORD

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all.” – 1 Timothy 4:14–15

One of the greatest principles in responding properly to prophecy is to record what was said—write it out so that it can be read and meditated upon.

If we choose not to record prophecy, it quickly loses its value, as important details are forgotten. This is especially true for longer prophetic words—our memory can only retain so much of the exact wording.

Recording and meditating on prophetic words also helps reveal that several interpretations may be possible. Many times, our first interpretation is not the full or proper application. Revelation unfolds over time.

3. TESTING AND BEARING WITNESS IN THE SPIRIT

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs—heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...” – Romans 8:16–17

When the Holy Spirit bears witness that a prophetic word is truly from God and aligned with His purpose, our spirit reacts with the fruit of the Spirit—peace, joy, love, and a deep assurance.

There may be a quiet warmth, a surge of joy, or even a sense that your spirit is leaping within you. That inner witness affirms that all is

in order, even when the mind doesn't yet understand everything being said.

But if there is no reaction—neither excitement nor concern—then it is a “wait and see” situation. The spirit is saying, “Nothing to get excited about; nothing to worry about.”

Do not act on what your spirit does not bear witness to.

4. WAR A GOOD WARFARE

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.” – 1 Timothy 1:18

Even when God has spoken it, you must still fight for it. Many believers face warfare not because they are cursed, but because the enemy is at war with the fulfillment of their prophetic destiny. Prophecy is both a promise and a call to battle. You war with the word until it manifests.

5. STANDING STILL UNTIL HEAVEN MOVES

Be cautious with prophetic directives—especially those involving major life decisions, such as marriage, finances, ministry, or family matters.

These words must be handled with spiritual oversight and discernment. Do not make drastic moves or life changes unless the word confirms what God has already been stirring in your heart.

Prophecy confirms the will of God; it does not replace your personal relationship with Him.