

## A more sure word of prophecy



Prophecies, especially personal prophecies, can often be a controversial issue across the Body of Christ. Most people have at one time or another received a personal prophecy or “prophetic word” from someone, and the problem is always to know what to do with it.

One school of thought is to “wage a good war” with the prophetic word, and another is to “put it on the shelf” and just wait for it to be fulfilled (or not). One is active, and the other passive. Which is right?

In my experience, both can be right, depending on the circumstances. If the “word” comes from an established and mature source, and if you submit it to your pastoral oversight to be judged, and it is found to be sound, then by all means claim it and pray it. It is a legitimate and powerful weapon in your spiritual arsenal, and in these days of intense spiritual warfare, we need every weapon we can lay our hands on!

But if it is from that rather odd “Brother Bloggs” or that hyper-spiritual “Sister Stringbag”, delivered in a quiet corner away from the crowds – then watch out! And all the more so, if the “word” is highly directive, negative, or very unusual or “spooky”. The correct action then is always to submit it to your pastor, cell group leader or an acknowledged, mature prophet for discernment, and be prepared to “shelve it” if there is any doubt at all. If it is God, He will bring it to pass in His way and in His time!

Pastor Kong Hee wrote an excellent article on prophecy in the January/February issue of Harvest Times Magazine, and I strongly recommend it to all “Kingdom Business Professionals”. It is balanced and perceptive, and will help you handle it correctly if someone comes to you with a personal “word”. In it, Ps Kong gives nine “tests” or principles for judging prophecies, and by applying them, you will save yourself the confusion and pain that comes with a questionable prophecy.

I have had powerful, accurate prophecies from acknowledged prophets within the Body of Christ, and they have built me up and pointed me in new and exciting directions. I have also had some of the wackiest and flakiest “words” you could imagine, which would have undoubtedly been destructive and confusing if I had given them more than passing attention.

Some of course are uncomfortably somewhere in between – and they are the ones sitting quietly and comfortably on my “shelf” waiting for the Holy Spirit to activate them if and when the time is right. Don’t worry – God is never in a hurry, and He won’t forget about your prophecy sitting there “on the shelf” if it really is of Him.

Of course, the one form of prophecy you can always accept as accurate and God-breathed, is the “word” you receive directly from THE Word – the Holy Bible.

I was recently reading the Book of Isaiah, and as I read through it, I felt a strong prophetic unction that seemed to apply so strongly and precisely to Christian business people, the “Kingdom Business Professionals”. The more I studied the verses, the more they seemed both relevant and timely.

And the Good News is that this prophecy doesn’t need to be “discerned” or judged – it is the Word of God, given by divine inspiration, and “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in all righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16). It is “living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword...(Hebrews 4:12).

You can take it and use it as a weapon of your warfare with absolute and total confidence, and if you do, you will find it is “mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...” (2 Corinthians 10: 4 & 5).

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 14: 3, “He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men...”

I believe that the words that the Holy Spirit lit up to me recently out of the Book of Isaiah are a powerful “rhema word” for us, and a “personal prophecy” we can take hold of and meditate on and use to “fight the good fight” of faith.

In the next Breakthrough Word, I will share with you this thrilling prophetic word. Extending over several chapters, as I read, a whole string of verses seemed to coalesce into a consistent and coherent whole.

I hope it speaks to you the way it did to me, and that you get as much out of it as I did and still do. Look for it in the next Breakthrough Word, “coming to a computer near you”!