Establishing a Prophetic Culture

Text: 1 Corinthians 14

I. Introduction

Culture defined: The behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group.

A prophetic culture takes place when a prophet or a high level prophetic anointing is present in a geographical location. In this atmosphere even non-prophetic people can prophesy. This truth is demonstrated in the life of King Saul in 1 Samuel 10:6.

As we start this process of building a prophetic culture, it is important that we understand what prophecy is and what it is used for.

What is prophecy? In the purist form prophecy is foretelling and forthtelling.

**Foretelling:** To know the future.
- One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. Acts 11:28

**Forthtelling:** To cause the future.
- He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.” Again He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. ‘I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.’ So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.”’ So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. Ezekiel 37:3-10
- Prophesying over Jason Powers hundreds of millions of sperm.

Prophecy is used for:
- Edification – To build up.
- Exhortation – To call near.
- Consolation – To cheer up.

A rule here at Freedom Point is that prophecy must remain in the vein of edification, exhortation and consolation. Should there be a need for any direction, correction or conferral that will come through Lee and me.

Another vital understanding we must have is that we control what we say and how we say it.
- and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; 1 Corinthians 14:32
- So this thought that says “God made me say that” is biblically incorrect.
- As prophetic people we control everything that we release in prophecy.
- We must also discern if what we are getting is for the body or for myself, meaning if I get a word and I am not sure who it is for, it’s most likely for myself.
Tools for developing a prophetic culture

1. Recognizing that God is always speaking and He speaks in different ways
   ➢ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. John 10:27

A. Spiritual perception
Perception is not limited to only the visual. Spiritual perception is the realm of knowing.
   ➢ In this type of perception, a person sees something in his spirit but his mind sees no image.
   ➢ This is more of a hunch, a gut feeling, a check within our spirit.

B. Pictorial visions
Numbers 12:6: I the Lord will make myself known to him in a vision.

In this kind of vision, an image is revealed to the mind and can be identified and described in terms of pictures.
   ➢ These are Holy Spirit visual aids.
   ➢ An example of this would be praying for a person and seeing a picture of a particular organ in your mind. This indicates what area to pray for.

C. Panoramic vision
Hosea 12:10: I have multiplied visions.

In a panoramic vision a person sees a pictorial vision in motion in his mind. This may last a few seconds. You may also hear words in the realm of the spirit.
   ➢ Ananias has this kind of vision and sees that he is to go lay hands on Saul so that he will receive his sight back.
   ➢ Paul has the same experience as well where he sees in a vision Ananias come and lay hands upon him so that he will regain his sight.

D. Dreams
Daniel saw a dream and visions in his mind as he lay upon his bed; then he wrote the dream down… Daniel 7:1

Here a person receives a message from the Holy Spirit in the form of visionary revelation while asleep.

Read Matthew 1:20-2:22

Solomon received from the Lord in his dream. I Kings 3:5-15

I sleep but my heart is awake. Song of Solomon 5:2

E. Audible messages
Audible messages from the Lord come in many categories: The Holy Spirit, Jesus, the Father and angels.

Audible voices that are unfamiliar to us and have no visible form may bring doubt and confusion or even fear.
When I hear these things do I have a sense of peace? The bible states we are to seek peace and pursue it. Also we are commanded in scripture to test the spirits to see if they are from God. I John 4:1-3

Examples of an audible voice:
- Jesus to Saul on the road to Damascus. Acts 9:3-7
- God the Father to Jesus. Matthew 3:17
- God the Father at the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:1
- An angel spoke to Phillip. Acts 8:26

2. Look for treasure within people
- The goal of the gift of prophecy is to bring out the best in people! We are to mine the gold that is among the dirt and to find hidden treasures in the lives of people.
- If we see negative things in the person's life we are ministering to, we are to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the answer to the problem we discern. Then we prophesy the answer – not the problem. (This is when you start operating in gift clusters)
- This will result in the person we are prophesying to receiving grace to solve the problem that they are stuck in. For example, if we are ministering to someone and discern that they are struggling with pornography, the Holy Spirit will often give us a prophetic word for them something like this: "God is calling you to a new level of purity and holiness.” In this way, we have prophesied the answer without speaking about the problem and have released grace to break the bondage of pornography.

3. Prophetic core values
How you listen is determined by your core values.

“So take care how you listen: for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.” Luke 8:18
- We all see with an accent but we just don’t know it.

If we view God as angry at the world, then we will “hear” out of that paradigm. This will result in:
- Judgmental prophetic words.
- Natural disasters will be viewed as God punishing people for their sins.
- Sickness, like AIDS, will be attributed to God judging people.
- We will be looking for what is wrong in the world instead of what is right.
- We will have a “slave” relationship with God.
- We will use the Old Testament Prophets to model our ministry.

If we view God as loving, affectionate, and in a good mood then we will “hear” out of that paradigm. This will result in:
- Believing the best about people.
- Extending mercy, grace, and forgiveness.
- Looking for what is right in the world.
- Looking for treasure in people.
- Seeing death, sickness, disasters, and the works of the devil as enemies of the Body of Christ. We will feel empowered to minister to bring life, healing, and comfort to the world.