

Questions:

- Do you find stewarding your prophetic call is challenging?
- When you receive a word from the Lord, do you continue to believe Him for it even when circumstances appear to go in the opposite direction?
- Do you always know if the word you receive is for you, or for the generation after you?

1. Steward the words we have received:

Testimony 1

I was recently praying about some particular words, and I didn't have all the details. The words were quite detailed, but I couldn't rely just on them alone, so was asking the Lord for some specific guidance. After a few months of doing this, I was getting quite desperate. So I said, "Lord, you've brought me to this place, and you really need to speak into this context, as I don't want to move or go ahead without hearing your voice".

That night I had a dream in which the Lord showed me a legal document and upon it was written the instructions that I had been needing to hear. So that very day I responded to what He had said, and began to pursue some things that He had been speaking to me about for the last few years.

Habakkuk 2: 1-3

2 "Then the Lord replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."

I have a record of the prophetic words that I have received over the last 22 years, and have just been experiencing a renewed season of grappling with prophetic words.

- I particularly like to look at the more directional words received over the last 2 years, as I feel it takes at least 2 years to work out and come into a place where the potential for opportunities opens up for the fulfilment of those words.
- Sometimes we are too quick to want more prophetic words, especially when we feel a bit stuck or there's not much going on. While it's good to "*eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially prophecy*" (1 Cor 14: 1), we also need to look back at what God has already said.
- *Hebrews 4: ¹²For the word of God is living and active.*" The words that God gave us 20 years ago have as much power in them as the ones from 2 years ago: His word is living and active.

Steward words by treasuring them:

- *Luke 2: 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*
- We need to value the words of God, as they are Spirit and they are life. Peter said to Jesus, "*You alone have the words of eternal life*" (John 6: 68)
- *We are in the season when we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4: 4).

- We can't just live by prophetic words on their own.
- Even when we are armed with prophetic words, we still need the current Rhema words of God.
- Often prophetic words are fulfilled in a way we don't expect -so we have to weigh and judge whether we must follow a word exactly, or whether we must co-labour with Him in the process and watch how He brings the word to pass.

Receiving revelation is always an invitation to dialogue more with Holy Spirit. Steward our calling in dialogue, friendship, and partnership with Him.

2. God enjoys the journey, not just the destination.

Testimony 2

- *I met one couple recently who, every time they were with other people, they couldn't stop talking about their woes and what was going wrong. They were seeking to buy a house, and it was clear that it was going to be a process over quite a few months. After quite a few weeks hearing their constant moaning, I felt God direct me to say to them: "God enjoys the journey, not just the destination". It really shocked them to realise that they could enjoy God directing them and being with them over this period of time, rather than getting frustrated at Him for not just answering their prayer immediately.*
- Sometimes we are so consumed with getting to where we want to be, or to where He has spoken about, that we sometimes forget to enjoy Him on the journey.
- Stewarding the prophetic call, and the words He has given us, is only possible in the context of friendship and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit on the journey.
- "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever"-Westminster shorter catechism

I like to sit with prophetic words in my quiet times with the Lord, and say, "I thank you that you have spoken this word God, how would you like to bring it about, and how would you like me to partner with you in the process?"

- The Lord often gives us practical steps that we can follow to help partner with the word. E.g. if He has spoken to us about ministering in another nation, then one step could be learning some of the language and culture. Or investigating visa options / accommodation etc.

3. Stewarding the call includes dreaming with God

Testimony 3

I worked in NE Uganda in 2004-05 for an emergency relief humanitarian organisation, in order to help victims of the civil war. It was when I was there that I saw that there were churches in the town I was staying in, but none in the surrounding rural villages. I began to ask Him for opportunities to share the gospel in the rural areas, and also climbed a local hill to pray over the area that I wanted God to open up. I often day-dreamed of going door-to-door and sharing the gospel, seeing people saved and healed. About 8 months later, I made friends with a local person from a rural village outside the town, and he invited my colleagues and I to preach there. We went 3x over the next 3 weeks, and saw a total of 150 people saved. A church started, which is still there today.

Covid-19 unlocked a new season of believers dreaming with God. Don't let busyness stop us from dreaming with the Lord, and pursuing the dreams He has given us.

Often, I find that what I am believing God for is too small. I can become too inward-focused, and stop thinking about how big and supernatural He is. Through divine appointments and favour, the Lord can open up opportunities for us, in accordance with His will, and when our characters/motives are right.

- Dreaming with God is part of stewarding the prophetic call on our lives.
- Solomon: 1 Kings 8: 17 "My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. 18 But the Lord said to my father David, 'You did well to have it in your heart to build a temple for my Name. 19 Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own flesh and blood—he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'
- David dreamt with the Lord about building a temple for Him.

Think multi-generational, when we think of the Lord fulfilling His promises to us.

- Ask the Lord who the word that you receive is for: you, or the generation after you. Are you to prepare the materials for the temple (like David), or build it (like Solomon)?
- When we dream with the Lord, we build relationship with Him, and we get more details for what He is calling us to. They may even come in the form of daily guidance or instructions for what steps we need to follow, in order to bring something about.

4. Co-labour / partner with the Lord in friendship to see words fulfilled

Testimony 4:

*When **God** gave me a word that He would open up the heart of Africa to me; I still had to attend a training course; accept a job; and move to Uganda to do humanitarian aid work.*

- Most (if not all) words God gives us are conditional. They require us to respond and partner with them in some way. E.g. growing our faith in a particular area; learning a new skill etc.
- Steward words as a friend; not just to gain something from them.
- In the context of friendship that God reveals His secrets / the revelation we need.
- Abraham was known as 'God's friend' (James 2:23).
- Job yearned after the 'intimate friendship' he had with God. *Job 29: 4 "Oh, for the days when I was in my prime, when God's intimate friendship blessed my house."*

Stewarding our calling means partnering with the Lord with the words He has already given us. How did David partner with the Lord in preparing for the temple?

1 Chronicles 28: 11-14, 19-20

19 " David said, "I have in writing from the hand of the LORD upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan."

- What did this look like?

11 Then David gave his son Solomon the plans for the portico of the temple, its buildings, its storerooms, its upper parts, its inner rooms and the place of atonement.

12 He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

13 He gave him instructions for the divisions of the priests and Levites, and for all the work of serving in the temple of the LORD, as well as for all the articles to be used in its service.

14 He designated the weight of gold for all the gold articles to be used in various kinds of service, and the weight of silver for all the silver articles to be used in various kinds of service.

20 David also said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished."

It's takes boldness and courage to steward the calling.

Step out and take RISKS! (Faith is often spelt RISK). If you can achieve your vision yourself, it's probably not from God. God is not calling you to do things in our own strength, but in His power.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit" -says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6)