

Mother of God Community
Sunday Night Prayer Meeting
Impact of Revelation, Scripture, Prophecy & the Prophetic on a Person's Life
Terri Celmer
October 25, 2009

Hebrews 4:12 says, "the Word of God is living and active".

Think: alive, moves (not stagnate), creative, dynamic, powerful, causes an impact

Isaiah 55:11 says "so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it".

The reason I recommended that you review your recent and old prayer notebooks in preparation for tonight's prayer meeting is because I believe the Holy Spirit wants to renew and deepen the impact the living Word of God has on your life.

[Word Power, Introduction. Before the Word Power Conference Damian wrote to us and said Christians are formed by God's Word and empowered to proclaim it so that its full creative power may be released in our lives and in our mission of advancing the Kingdom of God.]

In recent weeks we have heard about the importance of being formed by the Word and we've been challenged to realize that we have already been empowered to proclaim the Word. Tonight I want to press onward and address the kind of impact the Word has on a person's life – so that the full creative power of the Word is released in our lives and in the various works we do for the Lord.

Part I Direct Revelation, Scripture and Prophecy

I will focus tonight on Personal Revelation of Jesus + Scripture + Prophecy (spoken or lived), but a whole other subject worthy of prayer and reflection is the Word expressed in Sacraments.

Let me give a personal example of each kind:

Word of Sacrament – my baptism 1957: original sin is washed away; talk about Word power!

Direct revelation of Jesus – Terri's personal conversion story October 1971: Jesus is the reason for living. He is alive.

Scripture – I asked the question: should I seek baptism in the Spirit? January 1975: Acts 8:14-17

Prophecy – A friend gave a word to me August 1995: the Lord is going to use John and me as a couple. I was expecting it to mean that we would work side-by-side in some kind of ministry but what I came to learn over time was that certain elements in our marriage would enrich the Church in a prophetic way. I'll say more about this later.

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[Word Power, Saturday AM] Damian gave us discernment criteria for true prophecy:

- 1) Brings peace
- 2) Accomplishes what it says (in the visible or invisible realm)
- 3) You never forget

[Word Power, page 21] Damian said words seem to make their impact in 2 main ways:

- a) When we are open or vulnerable
 - Positively through a person we love or respect
 - Negatively by words that penetrate us in a moment of defenselessness

Example of false prophecy – several years ago a friend gave me a word that time was running out for my husband. [Obviously the person did not understand Damian's rules for giving prophecies – no dropping bombs.]

- Did not produce peace
- Opened me up to temptation of him dying

Some years later the Lord showed me another rule. Don't give proxy prophecy. It is wrong to prophesy over one person a message that is meant for another person. It is harmful; it makes the person who hears the prophecy feel responsible for affecting a change in the other person's life. Examine whether you are giving the prophecy to the person who has the responsibility to act, to respond to the word of the Lord.

- b) When we are saturated by constant repetition of a message

Damian reminded us that the Word seems to have more impact when we are open and vulnerable and when the message has been constantly repeated. I've always thought that one reason why my conversion experience at nearly age 14 took hold was that I had witnessed my parents' constant love for me. It was relatively easy for me to believe that God loved me because his representatives in my life were consistently displaying love and care for me and my siblings.

[Damian used the example of branding young animals: he told us, "You do it young and deep".] The life we live while we are young leaves a strong impression on us. I know in my youth it was, in part, feeling secure in my parents' love that allowed me to take the leap of faith and believe in the love of God whom I could not see with my own eyes.

The Lord gave me a Scripture in preparation for tonight that applies to what I am saying about impact. Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents

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Revelation, Scripture, prophecy, etc. are like talents. The Lord is looking for them to bear fruit. Don't be like the one who buried the talent. If you think you have a word for the body, be sure to share it with someone, let others help discern the word. Don't be silent; give it a chance to earn interest. Take it to the bank. For example, during one prayer meeting I thought I received a sense from the Lord for one of the teenagers; not knowing the girl well I took the word to her parents. In the case of a word for the body, take it to the leaders. Feel free to contact Tom Singer.

Part II The Christian Life is Prophetic

Let me give you a couple simple, biblical examples most of us can readily do to minister the prophetic office of Christ in our particular calling as lay people, as singles, married, or widowed.

1. Rev 19:10 tells us that "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy". "Jesus is alive!" was the main message of the apostles' testimony. In fact, witnessing to Jesus' resurrection was the prerequisite for being an Apostle in the New Testament. On the day of Pentecost Peter told the crowds in Acts 3:14-15 "... you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses."

Each time you proclaim "Jesus is alive", "He still lives," you are exercising a share in the prophetic mission of the Church.

Every proclamation, by word or deed that amounts to "Jesus is Lord" is a demonstration of the prophetic mission of the Church. You are bringing "life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim 1:10). The Church calls this making Jesus known and loved.

2. Married couples have a vocation that is highly prophetic in its essence. In describing the relationship of husband and wife, Eph 5:32 declares "This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church".

I remember the Lord telling me once that building unity with my husband was a way of serving the Church's ecumenical calling. It startled me because we both are Catholic. How can that impact the Church-wide thirst for Christian unity? Again, what happens in the marriage, what happens in the family, for that matter what happens in a Community, is what paves the way for important advances at the official Church level.

Prophetic value is happening day-in and day-out, in countless ways, in the couple life of ordinary Christian married persons. Don't underestimate the power of the revelation of Jesus incarnate in every Christian marriage. The task to be prophetic is not assigned to the super-holy ones but to all couples.

3. I was baptized in the Spirit here at Mother of God Community at age 17. Many of those my age wanted to serve the Lord with their whole lives. Baptism in the Spirit impacted how I later discerned a call to marriage, how I raised my children. Because of baptism in the Spirit I

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had in mind that I was preparing my children to be the future of the Church, [the Joshua generation]. Patty and Jack are young adults now. While I can't override their free will I can try to make my impact on them like honey – honey sticks to you; there are plenty of examples of bad influences in our culture sticking like tar to our young people, obscuring the image of God.

It is one thing to discern your spiritual gifts; it is still another thing to discern your specific calling or prophetic anointing. God can reveal Himself supernaturally like he did to Paul on the way to Damascus. He can speak through the Church in her teachings and Sacraments. He can speak through His Word, the Scriptures. He can uncover the thoughts of the heart through words of knowledge and revelatory prophecy. But there is more. God wants to impart His prophetic anointing on his sons and daughters. This is separate from having the gift of prophecy. You may or may not be a prophet but prophetic anointing means there is a special call of God on your life.

This relates to something Damian mentioned in the Word Power Conference. [Damian asked those at the Word Power conference, “Are you living under a prophetic word that has been discerned by respected people known for holiness?”] God can bring about this anointing anytime He wants; it's His gift but I think some degree of maturity is needed to walk in the anointing. [Could you sense the anointing on Damian Stayne when you heard him? He is a man of prayer and he's disciplined; he's got some maturity undergirding his work.] Once it is discerned, then the trial and error process of walking according to it begins.

Prophetic – In my own life I think a particular calling and prophetic anointing was released about 20 years after my baptism in the Spirit. I was 37. I remember exactly where I was sitting. It was a formative moment for something new in my life. The Lord spent time forming me interiorly and Mary was a big part of that. From that point on I noticed a clear sense of a calling and a stronger prophetic character to my life. I've received guidance from respected people known for holiness who are able to discern this calling's potential benefits for the Body of Christ.

We need to access our prophetic anointing as a Community and as individuals to move forward as the Joshua generation. There is a prophetic anointing upon Mother of God Community. It is important to keep that clear in our minds, to guard it and foster it. But also, there are many people here who have been given an anointing or for whom the Lord wants to place an anointing on them. Having a prophetic anointing doesn't make you a better Christian. You aren't holier; it is given for the sake of the Lord's work.

Remember the Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30). The Lord will hold us accountable for what measure of grace, call, anointing, He gives us in this life.