



THE ADVENTURE OF PROPHECY



FOR THOSE WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF
GOD ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD

TREVOR MADDISON

The Adventure Of Prophecy

By
Trevor Maddison

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Synopsis:

Prophecy is the gift of all gifts. That is – the spiritual gift of all spiritual gifts. That is why scripture encourages every Christian believer to covet it for themselves.

The author describes himself as a prophetic evangelist, in terms of ministry, though much of this book is simply about living a quality life with God through prophecy as a key part of it. Beyond that it is also about using this gift to bless others, and about taking it onto the streets as a means of evangelism.

When it comes to gifts of God, they are often passed on through those who already have them, and enjoy them. This is true from the first step of receiving the gospel and being born again to much of the journey that follows.

Here the author draws on nearly five decades of experience to show you an example of how a prophetic life can look for those that embrace it.

The book is therefore largely autobiographical, though not exhaustively. The experiences shared are carefully chosen as the cream off the top, so that through it the lessons that were learned can also be passed on to you, along with the gift of prophecy itself.

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PREFACE

Life is an adventure. Who said that? Besides me, I mean. For me, listening to God and prophecy are essential parts of it.

In today's world, we have easy access to a wealth of Christian teachings spanning several decades, and there is no shortage of material on prophecy. However, what sets each of us apart is our unique experiences. This may explain why so many videos and podcasts today focus on individuals with compelling stories.

The tale of my journey with prophecy is undeniably unique, and indeed it has been an adventure, which is why I feel compelled to share it. For me, hearing God and engaging in prophecy are essential aspects of life, to the extent that I can scarcely envision life without them.

My inspiration to write about it has come because I meet so many Christians who are not really living in the full benefit of that gift, and I feel sorry about

that as I don't think they really know what they are missing. I also know, when I am led to share my story it can be an eye-opening inspiration for many as they begin to realise what is possible.

My whole purpose here is to whet your appetite for it, and that was God's idea, not mine. However, there is so much of it I have to pick and choose, as I am led, so I will effectively be skimming the cream off the top, usually picking things that bring key lessons with them.

As is always true for me as an evangelist, when I write I partly do it for those who have not even started a spiritual journey. Though in this case it is mainly aimed at parts of the church that are missing something, it is also for those who are living life completely oblivious to these things.

If that is you, and this inspires you, then one thing you will definitely need to know is how to get started. For most people like you, that should come as a pleasant surprise because God didn't make it difficult. In fact he did all the hard

work and then simply invited every member of the human race into it.

If you want to know more, I included an Appendix that covers this in detail and tells you exactly what you need to do.

The alternative is to first read this book to get some idea of the kind of life and adventure it can lead to, but I put it at the end because I mainly wrote this for people who are already Christian, but have not yet fully found their way into the things I am about to share.

Whoever you are, and whatever stage you are at in your spiritual journey, let me say welcome, and I pray you are blessed as I share this aspect of my life story with you. I hope we will meet some day. If you get your own spiritual life and journey then I assure you, one day we certainly will.

Trevor Maddison

1. Introduction

There are times when I am out on the streets of our cities for evangelism and I get into a conversation about why I am a Christian, and why I am out there on the streets, keen to tell others about it.

The first thing I want to be clear about is that it is NOT because I have to be there because at this stage of my life I know and understand if this were really about me then that would be a problem.

Nobody, and especially not God, has me over a psychological barrel to do it. Those days for me have long gone and I have not functioned like that for a very long time; not since God set me free of it.

However, I do at times meet Christians who assume that is what is happening with me. When I meet them I understand them. What it means is, if they were doing the same thing, that is why they would be doing it – and I also know that is the

very reason they are not doing it.

You see, everything done from a legalistic viewpoint is extremely heavy – too heavy to carry in fact, and therefore bound to fail. It is only by discovering our freedom from the law, and discovering the abundance of God's grace, that anything becomes possible for us. That is a Bible principle. Once we find that freedom the adventure can begin.

I begin by saying that because as I start to write this message the very same thing applies. I am not compelled to do it, but I am responding to an invitation I heard in the inner ear of my spirit, and I know this is something I simply don't want to miss. I also know if I do miss it I will feel a loss of some kind, and a measure of personal regret for what could have been. But it is not the negative expectations that are compelling me, but the fact that I actually live for this kind of adventure more than anything else I do in my life.

So what is it that I heard God say?

It is this – Now you are age 65, and in your fifth decade of walking out this life with my Spirit, tell my children about the fun and adventure you've had – so far.

And I add the 'so far' there because this call to write also comes with another prophetic conviction – that even now the best is yet to come, and writing this is merely a precursor to that where I can again wrap up a season of the former things, and step into the greater era of the new things God now wants to take me into.

You see God knows that is a huge carrot for me, and when he wants me to do something he knows exactly how to excite my spiritual taste buds, so he has my attention. Here I come!

Maybe you don't really understand this, in which case this book is definitely for you. My prayer and expectation is that by the end of this book you will fully understand it, and I hope, like me, you will have developed a taste for this kind of life yourself

if you don't have it already.

2. How did it Begin?

I am not going to take any logical path here. Rather I am just going to write about my experiences as I am led by the Spirit. After all, I ask, how else should a book on a prophetic life be written?

That said, I must briefly take us back to where it began for me.

I surrendered my life to Christ early, before the age of five. But then I did the common youthful thing of rebelling against it in my teens.

There were things about it I didn't like, and in fact still don't. But I don't need to go into the details of that here.

As a teenager I developed my own mind. You know what they say – *Encourage your teenager to leave home and get a job while they still know everything.*

That was just a joke, of course, but I did become a rationalist with arguments as to why I didn't believe this Christian stuff anymore.

However, under a difficult season in my mid-teens I do remember saying to God – *If you're real please make yourself known to me before I am age eighteen because I don't want to waste my life ignoring you if you are really real.*

Fortunately God was listening and it led to me coming back to Christ on the evening before my eighteenth birthday, despite having completely forgotten that prayer.

It came in the form of a deep inner conviction that God was calling me to surrender my life on that evening.

This was not unusual. I was still attending church under the duress of my parents, and often felt the conviction of the Spirit when the frequent altar calls came, but I had learned to resist and walk away, upon which it would subside.

However, on this particular evening I again walked away but the conviction didn't subside as normal – instead it followed me, and became stronger.

The thought that was compelling me so much was that if I didn't choose Christ under this level of conviction then I surely never would. That led me to return to the church and make the necessary surrender to God, and here I am many decades later still living it out.

Why do I tell this story? Because it defined the way this Christian life would be for me throughout. I was trying my best to rationalise my way around it and God met me not with rational arguments, but with a conviction in my spirit that overrode all that.

That is not to say my Christian life didn't include my mind. It certainly did, and does. But if I ever began to lean on my understanding as my primary source I inevitably got into trouble.

Instead I had to learn to continue as I started with the Spirit of God in the lead, and the mind in the rear always trying to keep up.

Jesus in the scriptures put it like this – *My sheep hear my voice and follow me.* Or as the Apostle Paul put it – *The children of God are led by the Spirit of God.*

If you think about it, this makes perfect sense, and should be no surprise because God clearly wouldn't design the Christian life to be lived only by intellectuals. In fact he said we all need to become as little children to receive the Kingdom, and that makes perfect rational sense to me, ironically.

What my rationalism meant was I needed to learn a different way of thinking that was not primarily rational. Rather it was intuitive knowledge and revelation that often went beyond the rational. For me the early steps of my Christian life meant I had to learn this way of thinking and receiving as my primary source, and learn to

submit my rational mind to it which would always catch up later.

3. How did I Learn?

In many ways I am still learning. That's one of the exciting things about the adventure. But originally it came through some key influences – often through authors – i.e. via books – which if you think about it does validate me writing about it here.

One major influence was a lady named *Leanne Payne* with two of her books – (1) *The Healing Presence*, and (2) *Restoring the Christian Soul*. Her focus was inner healing, but you quickly start to realise by testimony after testimony that though she was an intellectual – trained in psychiatry, her ministry was wholly based on prophetic hearing, or by helping others to hear God for themselves.

In her books she deals with the '*head/heart schism*' and how to overcome it. In other words, how to learn intuitive prophetic thinking as our primary lead, rather than rational thinking. She herself was influenced greatly by *C. S. Lewis* who was certainly a master rationalist, but when you

look into his primary source you realise he too had discovered a level of intuitive revelation and by his own admission it was this that inspired all he wrote.

The same is true even for top scientists, such as Albert Einstein who saw the scientific formulas in vision dancing before his eyes.

Leanne also refers to others that were a stepping stone for me. One was *Brother Lawrence* and his epic little book '*Practising the Presence*', and it is this book that led me to my first experience of listening to God and experiencing prophetic revelation beyond my initial step into spiritual rebirth, age eighteen.

The first ten years of my career were spent training to become an engineer in the British coal mining industry. One day my duties led me to go down a mine which was over half a kilometre deep, and then to walk a roadway underground to my destination for about seven kilometres.

The roadways are pitch black, only lit by the battery lamp I was carrying. They also have an eerie silence to them which can be unnerving when you are conscious of being deep beneath the earth. I wasn't scared as this was becoming a normal experience for me, but what struck me on this day was I had no awareness of the presence of God.

I did my job and finished the shift, but felt I needed to question my experience because in the scriptures Jesus tells us he will never leave us or forsake us. But if he was with me, why was I so unaware of it? I realised my mind and my spirit were not aligned, and it was *Brother Lawrence* that pointed the way forward to begin to make that alignment. I needed to learn to *practise the presence of God*.

What I actually did was to specifically ask God to reveal to me whether his Spirit was with me or not, and I dwelt on that question until I got a firm answer that had some inner certainty about it. What surprised me was that certainty seemed

to come. I had a positive answer that he was with me, even without any evidence to confirm it. I simply felt completely convinced. I realised then that I was hearing in exactly the way the scriptures tell us we can – by faith. Faith is not actually blind, as some say, but it is in fact another way of seeing and hearing, so faith is really spiritual sight. The Spirit of truth comes to affirm truth to us in a way that we can accept without any kind of creative manipulation or self-deception.

Academics have a particularly hard time with this as their focus is often so rationally based, especially in the western world.

From there I learned to *practise the presence* regularly and through it I began to develop a relationship with Jesus that was close.

Skipping forward a few years of doing this, and deriving great benefit from it. One day I was '*practising the presence*' and prophetically the face of Jesus seemed to come closer and closer to my face until it seemed to invade my space and our

heads came partially together. At first as this was happening I flinched, and he backed off. But then he came forward again, slowly and gently, and when I finally submitted to it I found our heads came together and then his head turned so our faces became one. This was at a time when I was learning about my identity in Christ and I realised God was showing me that my face was becoming the face of Christ, so I began to bear his likeness.

This far down the line I am aware of Christ with me at every moment without even thinking about it. But I still remember the learning curve towards that very clearly, which is why I can share it. The effects of such a revelation are dramatic, even life changing, so I would strongly recommend it to anyone if you want to have your life enriched.

For me, at that time, this was a significant early advancement into living a prophetic life.

4. The Normal Christian Life

What we have to realise is that a prophetic life – a life led by revelation of the Spirit – is a *normal* Christian life. That much is made clear in the scriptures. *Joel 2:28* tells us in no uncertain terms that this is for young and old, male and female. None are excluded. Dreams and visions are our portion and it is accessible to all.

This verse of scripture is itself prophecy and on the day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter quoted it and proclaimed that those days had come and we are all now the beneficiaries of the prophetic life. We therefore need to drop any notion that this is out of the ordinary, or only for a select few. This is NORMAL and it is the very basis of the adventure I am talking about.

The truth is, every person is created with a built-in, God given imaging facility; we have an imagination. It should be no surprise therefore that God gave us that ability with the full intention of using it for our good. Through it we get full 3D

images that have meaning as a means through which God speaks to us. He clearly uses words too, but here we are told it goes much further than that.

Of course in our day we have remarkable imaging technology, to the point where we can even strap a device to our head and get full visual immersion, and that technology too is God given as he was the one who made it possible when he created this world.

He also uses that technology to speak to us, but we need to be aware there is an even greater facility built into our very constitution that has been accessible to all generations, and that will always be a greater thing than anything man can invent if we submit it to God. We need to be careful, therefore, that we don't miss the greater thing through a distraction or obsession with the lesser.

As I said before, I am constantly learning and I don't expect that to stop any time soon. One

recent realisation has been what Jesus meant when he said to the woman at the well that he would give her *living water*, and that it would spring up within her into '*abundant life*'.

I always just interpreted this scripture as the Spirit of God springing up within, but then I heard someone I respect say this is prophecy that springs up within our being to include our mind and our consciousness, bringing an ever refreshing flow to the whole of our being.

This struck me, first because the Spirit of God prophetically affirmed it within me, as he always does when I hear truth.

Secondly because it makes sense that the Spirit has to manifest in some way which should reach every part of the soul – mind, will, and emotion.

And also because it completely matches my experience – that when I receive revelation directly from God it has the most profoundly

refreshing effect.

After all Jesus spoke of us living not just by bread, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God – the living bread. This satisfying flow that Jesus spoke of primarily comes forth as prophetic revelation that impacts every part of us.

When we look further in the scriptures we find that prophecy had a key place in the functioning of the early church.

This is something that has been challenged over the centuries, and lost for many, because the devil knows what a threat it is to him and his purpose, so he tries to stamp it out. But as always, when something of God is challenged, it sooner or later re-emerges, often with greater potency than before.

Those people and churches that have discovered the prophetic flow are living a rich and satisfying life by it. Which means it is a real pity when some are robbed of it, either by the doctrine

of devils that try to persuade us it no longer exists, or that it is not for us. Or they try to stamp it out by departing from God's order for church that should allow it to operate freely, but instead keep it suppressed.

It is not for no reason that the scriptures speak of prophecy as the highest gift. Above healing, above miracles, above faith, wisdom, and knowledge, though these last three are closely related and complimentary.

5. The Defining Principle of Life

My life has been led by prophetic revelations. That is an ongoing fact for me. Not primarily prophecy from others, though some certainly had a part in it, but mostly through revelations I received directly from God myself.

These revelations are sometimes for a short term purpose. They are fulfilled and we move on. Others however, are lifelong, and so become life defining. And sometimes, even when fulfilled we realise these prophetic revelations are multi-layered, with more and often greater fulfilments still to come.

Often I find God uses others to confirm what he is saying, though there are no rules with God so we should be careful not to restrict him to our own ideas of how he should work.

For myself, I particularly enjoy when God does things that are out of the ordinary. In the coming

chapters I will share some of that.

Often when he does that you learn something and it pushes you forward. Think, for example, of when Jesus turned water into wine; or when he stilled a storm; or when he walked on water; or when he raised the dead. None of that was expected.

When I came to doing '*Healing on the Streets*' where we prayed for any that were prepared to take a seat with us, I learned never to predict what God would do. It may be instant, slow motion, or delayed. It may be a battle, or it may be easy. It may be a creative miracle, a natural healing, or a medical or surgical success.

Some of that, we discovered, is dependent on the resistance of the enemy, but we learned to always keep pushing through until we got the result.

Miracles are not science, so we can't predict how things will go in that way, even for

two very similar cases. But I found that was a great part of the adventure, so we frequently find ourselves wondering with anticipation – *What will God do today?*

6. Nottingham

During the 1990's, before I ever saw healing, I ran prayer meetings in my home. One of my prayers was to see healing because, as I said to God – *I am not satisfied to just sing about your power, I need to see it.* Believe me, God listens to those kinds of prayer.

In these meetings I had a prophetic vision of Nottingham market square and healings happening there. But the strange thing was I saw a fountain in the square which I knew was not what was there.

Some years later God said to me – *Now is the time, there will be healing on the streets in Nottingham this year,* so I moved there and began evangelising in the city with a church that was already doing that. When I got there the market square was surrounded by boards, obscuring the view. They were building something. Then when they took the boards down, there was the fountain I had seen in my vision.

God has a way of reinforcing his word to us when we need it.

Initially we were evangelising only by giving away gifts and tracts, and talking to people, but then we heard of miracles happening at a church in *Northern Ireland* in our same denomination, so we arranged a trip there. We stayed with the church members who took us out on the streets.

When I woke that morning, as soon as I opened my eyes, God said to me clearly – *You will not be the same by the end of today*. That day we saw two and a half hours of shear power, with God doing some extraordinary miracles involving bone growth, broken bones healed, cartilage restored, and many other things that I had never seen before.

That launched us into the healing ministry in *Nottingham* where we came to see miracles in the market square as a clear fulfilment of what God had previously shown me by prophecy. In fact that

whole movement and evangelism model in healing became known as '*Healing on the Streets*', named by its pioneers in *Northern Ireland* – exactly as God had said to me.

Yes, the prophetic life is an adventure, for sure.

7. London

Before *Nottingham*, about eight years into my Christian life, I spent some devotional time with God one morning, then decided to start work on my computer. As I switched it on God said to me – *Switch that off, get your shoes on, we are going for a walk.*

I then walked to the nearby forest under an unusually clear leading of the Spirit. When we got to the forest the Spirit kept saying – *this is the way, walk in it* – pointing out a path, or turn, or a heading. Then I got to a place where he said – *go right here*. But there was no track. It led me through thick brambles and thorns, but the urge was strong so I followed my lead. Then in the middle of the forest I came to a physical sign that had no obvious reason for being there. It read '*LONDON*'.

I had no more information but just knew God had spoken to me something significant. The following day I went to church and a lady member

of the church, who I knew moved in the prophetic, told me of a dream she had of me going to *London*. That was confirmation.

That prophetic message became one of those that was life defining for me. It broke me out of my parochial vision and made me think on a different level, which was clearly part of God's purpose for me. But only after 24 years did I get a call to go to *London*, which was during the 2012 London Olympics, to evangelise during that event.

I had financial challenges at the time but God led me to the place he wanted me to work and serve, and provided what I needed with little cost. It led me to a '*worship burn*' that lasted 30 days and nights non-stop, which was life changing for me. And to also take many people out onto the streets of *London* to use my experience to bring healing to the people. I saw more miracles there than I ever saw in my life.

Prior to going to *London* during the Olympics God said to me – *The Para-Olympics will be greater*

than the Olympics. Through that he led me back there for the Para-Olympics that came after. Again we did healing on the streets using the same model we had in *Nottingham* where we set out a number of chairs, raised a 5 metre high flag proclaiming healing, and invited people to come for prayer.

During the Olympics we saw many healed and then gave them the gospel and sometimes led them to Christ. But during the Para-Olympics we sensed a change. It was a smaller team but now the people were coming to sit on the seats, they were then hit by the Spirit of God, gave their life to Christ, and then we ministered healing.

I said earlier that God alone decides how he is going to do things. All we can do is listen as well as we can, and do our best to do what he says and keep up. He will then do the rest.

When my time in *London* came to an end I was invited to join a prayer meeting for parliament on Westminster Bridge. I felt a sense of relief

believing the *London* prophecy was now fulfilled.

As we were gathered there praying on the bridge a black man I didn't know came up to me, sobbing his eyes out and prophesying about the miracles God will do through me in the future. In this way God told me it is not yet over. This was clearly a lifelong, manifold or multi-layered, and life defining prophecy – as they sometimes are.

That was 14 years ago and the return call has still not come up – not yet. But once again God used prophecy to keep me envisioned in all that I do and to keep looking for his next lead, which will surely come.

Yes, the prophetic life is an adventure, for sure.

P.S. It turned out the London sign in the forest was there because the forestry had planted an area of trees some years earlier in the shape of Britain and decided to mark the location of London on the map with a sign.

8. Israel

I always intended to visit Israel someday, just to encounter the place that has become such an intimate and key part of my life through reading the Bible and especially the gospels, for decades.

The day came when I realised I had to take a holiday from working as a software developer and I got a definite prophetic leading in my spirit that *now is the time*. This came in 2015, by which time I had been a Christian for 37 years.

Within days of getting the idea I booked the journey and headed off to stay in Jerusalem. I didn't go on an arranged tour, as many do, but I decided to simply say to the Holy Spirit – *Will you please be my tour guide*. I went to stay in a hotel in Jerusalem that I picked at random, though God was clearly in control of that because it turned out to be a hotel that many visiting orthodox Jews from around the world go to, and God was about to give me a fascinating religious education, as

well as some unforgettable encounters while I was there.

For my purpose here, I only want to focus on those encounters because again they demonstrate what a prophetically inspired life can be like that is led by the Holy Spirit.

I spent significant time in Jerusalem, but I also hired a car for a few days so I could tour the whole country.

While in Jerusalem I met person after person that God was clearly leading me to, especially Jews, and had some amazing God-led conversations.

I then went in search of the place of the crucifixion – Calvary, and I again asked the Holy Spirit to be my guide.

I walked the *Via Dolorosa* – the way of the cross that Jesus walked as he carried the cross

from the place of judgment to where he was crucified.

With thankfulness and gratitude, I ate the Lamb that was served along the way and celebrated my own personal Passover, doing what Jesus had told us to do – *to partake of his body that was broken for us*. It was an unforgettable experience as the Spirit of Jesus was walking with me all the way – remember what I said about practising the presence of God.

However, when I got to the place that is traditionally regarded as the place of Christ's crucifixion, I had no resonance with it. It is a religious place, but not something my Spirit was affirming to me as I again asked him to lead me.

I then began to search for the real place. That led me to the back of the bus station in Jerusalem where there is something of a cliff face. It is the place that is reckoned by some to be the place called *Golgotha* – the place of the skull, mentioned in the gospels. There is a part of the

rock face there that looks like a skull. That was more impressive to me, but as I stood there looking at it I felt the Spirit prompt me to look up. There at the top of the rock face was a hill, and a rock wall, and the Spirit said to me '*go up there*'.

To get there I went right, tracking along the base of the hill along the rock face, which led me into the Muslim quarter of the city, which is why the regular Holy Land tours will not take you there.

Before long this leads to the base of the hill and a road running alongside a graveyard where all the gravestones seem to be written in Arabic. The graveyard was walled off with gates through the wall at intervals, but all the gates were chained and locked to prevent access.

Eventually, as I tracked along the wall I came to a gate that had a gap I could squeeze through. After getting into the graveyard I then tracked back along the inside of the wall, and then

began to ascend the hill, climbing towards the summit I had seen from the bus station.

Throughout my journey to Israel I was wearing shoes with very soft rubber soles. As I walked up the hill I passed many thorn bushes, with thorns that dropped off onto the path and always landed with one thorn always sticking upwards. I found out later these bushes were known as *the crown of thorns*. I think they were planted there to deter people from going there. There were so many it was impossible to avoid them, and the thorns were so long and sharp as I trod on them they pierced right through my shoe soles, and some of them even stuck in my feet.

Every now and then I had to keep stopping to pull all these thorns out of my shoe soles, but my feet were now bloodied from the thorns that had actually pierced my feet.

I kept walking and stopping, actually enjoying every moment, despite the thorns, as I sensed I was on a real adventure.

Eventually I came to the top of the hill, and now the prophetic sense was strong that this was the place. As I looked around I was now high above the city and I could see much of its contours, their dwellings, and the other hill tops. That means this hill was also visible to the whole of the city, which would be exactly the kind of place where the Romans would enact crucifixions as it was intended as a display and a warning to all the people of the city not to rebel against their rule.

I had no doubt that I had been led to this place by the Spirit, and it is not the kind of place that any official tour would ever take you as it is not the official place; it is only accessible through the Muslim quarter; and it is a Muslim graveyard and is therefore guarded by Muslim tombs.

However, the whole experience for me was undoubtedly Spirit led, including the fact that I too, in a token way, ascended the hill bloodied, as

Jesus did, again with his presence right there with me.

Much later I discovered this place has been named by some as *Gordon's Calvary*, after a British *Major-General Gordon* that identified this place as the true Calvary. It is not the official place of crucifixion, but given my experience, as led by the Spirit, I would suggest it is certainly the true one.

Later, as I toured the country in a car. I lapped the Sea of Galilee twice, which did not disappoint. I accidentally crossed into the Palestinian occupied territory of the West Bank, passing through the city of Nablus in former Samaria, which is near Jacob's Well of Sychar where Jesus met the woman at the well.

I travelled to Haifa on the coast, near Elijah's Mount Carmel, and tracked down to Tel Aviv and Joppa, all with the Spirit of God as my guide and company all the way.

But the one place I was keen to go to besides all this was *Nazareth*, which is also a Palestinian settlement. It seems many key Christian places are Muslim controlled – Calvary, Bethlehem, Nazareth, though not necessarily inaccessible.

As I was driving through Nazareth I was speaking to the Lord and saying, please tell me where you lived.

I realised the house he lived in could not be there now, but I wanted to know the place.

Then as I was driving along the road I heard the Spirit say to me – *Look right now*. I looked right and there was a nice single story house with steps up to the roof. And I heard the Lord say – *My house was like that*.

Across the road was a ridge that looked over the town with a beautiful view. What we can be sure of is the terrain is the same as it was in the days of Jesus, and I felt a strong sense that this

was a view that Jesus lived with all of his young life.

I have no proof of it, but I even believe the Lord showed me the very place where his house was once situated.

One thing is for sure, this trip to Israel was a landmark experience for me. It made everything so much more real so I no longer read the gospels in quite the same way. But my point in sharing all this is, what a blessing and a privilege it is to be able to ask God to be your tour guide when you travel, and for him to share his life and death with you in such a way.

I say it again: A prophetic life of hearing God is a real adventure that is not to be missed, and it is open to each and every one of us who have his Spirit

9. God Makes the Rules

We believers all have ideas about how God should do things, but as I said before, we have to be careful not to put him in a box.

Take for example when Jesus turned water into wine. There are some who believe alcoholic drink is simply evil and therefore can't compute this, except to believe that it must have been grape juice. However, if you look at the text, the wedding host complimented the organisers for bringing out the best wine when the guests had already had enough so they would not appreciate it so much. So it was clearly alcoholic.

God works to no man's rules. We can debate that scripture another time but let me share another one of those unusual miracles that God does sometimes.

One Saturday we were doing *Healing on the Streets* and evangelism in *Nottingham* market square. We had a competent team doing healing

so I let them get on with it and I started inviting people to come and get prayer as they passed by.

I approached one guy and asked – *Can we pray for you for healing?* He said – *No thanks, I am going to the betting shop.* I just smiled, said ok, and bid him good day. Then as he walked away God said to me – *Why didn't you pray for his bet?*

This took me by surprise as it never even occurred to me, and I had to question whether I was actually hearing God or just imagining it. I then prayed – Ok Lord, if that is you speaking then please bring up an opportunity like that again.

The following Saturday, just one week later, I was in another town ten miles away, again doing healing on the streets, and again I asked a passer-by if he would like us to pray for him for healing. As on the previous week this guy said – *No thanks, I am going to the betting shop.*

Now please understand that in all my years of doing ministry like this, these are the only two

times anyone responded like that.

I then said – *Can I pray for your bet?*

At that his eyes lit up and he said – *Yes please.* I then had him sit on a bench in the square so I could pray for him.

His name was John. He told me every Saturday he would come with his two friends to the town square, go to the pub for a drink, and then head to the betting shop where he would put his money on two horses in the same race. That way he has double the chance of winning. He would then head back to the pub with his friends and wait for the race.

I prayed – *Lord please give John wisdom today as he goes into the betting shop and show him which horses to put his money on. Please bless John with a win today. Amen.*

He then headed off to the betting shop at the edge of the square to place his bet.

After about 15 minutes in there John emerged from the betting shop with his two friends, looking very excited. He came over to me and said – *I put my money on two horses in the same race. One called 'Heaven Sent' and the other called 'Halfway to Heaven'. Both of them at odds of 7-to-1.*

Later that day I looked up the result of the race. *Halfway to Heaven* had won the race by a nostril.

Not everyone has a God that would do such a thing, but mine would... and did. Fortunately for the sceptics every race that is ever run in this internet age is recorded and the result remains accessible to all – so here, see for yourself...

<https://www.racingpost.com/results/21/goodwood/2008-08-02/461377/>

For me that was fun, and of course a real miracle. But God often does these unusual things with a

purpose. Of course part of it is to speak to these guys in a unique way that they would understand, but there was more to it than that.

About 6 months after this happened I was having a devotional time with God and he said to me – *Do you remember which horse won the race?*

I said –*Yes, it was Halfway to Heaven.*

Then God said to me – *That was because on that day you were halfway to heaven.*

So, as a result of this miracle God told me when I am due to leave this world – the very day.

That made me think why he would tell me that? I now know this happens for more people than most of us realise, but it is a little unusual. In my case I believe God showed me it had several purposes. One main one was to slow me down and make me more patient about going to heaven.

You see in my mid 20's I had a really challenging time where the pressures of life seemed too much for me. It was like a perfect storm where I was coming under pressure with my job; with my relationships; with my finances; and worst of all I was

battling with religious spirits that felt unbearable, all at the same time.

In the middle of all this God helped me by giving me a very brief prophetic glimpse of heaven. What happened was I had an experience of the comfort of the *New Jerusalem*, which is heaven. God is our comforter, but it says in the Book of Galatians Chapter 4, *the New Jerusalem is above and she is our 'mother.'* I understood that this place is our destiny. God inhabits her and it promises comfort that is as great as that of a mother to a child, and I felt it.

This was a prophetic insight that really changed my life. It gave me an outlook like that of the Apostle Paul who said it is far better to leave and be with the Lord, but that he was only staying for the sake of those he was sent to serve.

When I had this experience I was also told about the *river of life* that comes from the throne in heaven, and I was given a song of celebration of that city and that river. A simple song that still evokes for me the memory of that experience.

I have since come to understand that we can be told about the *river of life*, but we can't experience it yet because no-one can experience such a thing and remain here in this world. The same is true for anyone that eats the fruit of the trees in heaven, or sees the face of God. No-one who experiences these things will ever want to come back here so for now to simply know about it is enough.

This whole experience changed the trajectory of my life. I became willing to suffer longer because I know something of what awaits me at the end.

The subsequent revelation of when I am due to depart this world also had other effects.

First it made me bold, so when I visit other countries or go where there is some danger, I know I will come through it.

That means if I ever travel by air I can say to anyone with me that is nervous – *Don't worry. I know when my time will come, and it's not yet, so you will*

be ok.

The same confidence was given to Peter when Jesus told him he would get to be an old man, so when Peter was in prison he knew he was coming out, even though the *Apostle James* had already been martyred.

When I went to Africa for two years I decided to walk through the villages alone, but was warned not to do it by my hosts. On the very first day I set off walking a stone flicked up from a car wheel and hit my glasses, bouncing off with no injury to my face and no damage to my glasses. At that moment God said to me – *I am protecting you*. So from there it gave me boldness to go and to meet and speak to the Africans that I met as I walked.

I also found that knowing I will be here longer made me mentally and practically prepare for a longer life, which was another reason for the revelation.

I think another reason God gave me this information on when I will be leaving was that in my early

Christian years I had read of someone who had a similar revelation, and I was impressed by it. I can't remember where I read it now, but I remember it in detail. It was a man who lived in South Africa that one day said to his wife – *Please contact my two sons and ask them to come and visit me before Ascension Day because God is taking me home on that day.*

His sons were in other parts of the world, so they visited their father as requested, and one of them was still there when *Ascension Day* came. As he was speaking to his father on that day, he turned away for a moment, then turned back, and his father had gone. He had simply passed away in his chair. A few moments later his mother then came into the room carrying a tray of tea, and her son said to her – *I am very sorry Mum but Dad just passed away.* At that his mum said to him – *Don't worry, it's ok, he gave me a kiss this morning and he reminded me he was leaving.*

This made me realise there are some out there that walk very closely with God, and I think it was particularly reading of that event that gave me a hunger to live that way. It is there for us all if we

desire it. We only have to ask.

You see, prophetic revelations are not usually just for interest. They are to equip us for living for God, and with God. This is why I advocate prophecy as the gift that will enrich you in every way that matters – In wisdom and knowledge; in intimacy with God; in purpose and direction; in comfort. As I said before, prophecy has been used by God to define my very life.

Yes, the prophetic life is an adventure, for sure.

10. Correction

Holy Scripture testifies about itself that it is there for teaching, but also correction.

However, that is not the only source or pillar of truth we have. Prophecy is also a source of truth, and although it cannot contravene scripture, it can and often does challenge our knowledge and understanding of scripture, just as scripture is always used as a test for the alignment of prophecy.

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

But then there is a third pillar of truth, which is conscience. This is a built in faculty that leads us to always align any idea we have with our knowledge of good and evil.

In the Book of Hebrews we are told that the ability to accurately divide between good and evil is a mark of spiritual maturity. What we call our conscience therefore develops over time as we

develop and mature.

These three provide a check on each other and are designed to all work together so they become like a three-legged stool that is always stable, even when placed on uneven ground.

But then consider for a moment trying to balance on a two-legged stool. How much more precarious would that be compared to the stability of all three legs.

When you think about it, you can see how any two of these pillars of truth could provide a measure of stability, but not nearly as much as when all three are present and working.

Sadly many churches have been functioning on only two, often with the prophetic gift as the missing pillar, as if Satan has managed to kick away the third leg of the stool. They still survive but if Satan manages to kick out another leg then it is most likely they will fall.

How much better it is to simply have all three

pillars of truth in place and working. Prophecy is a stabilising factor, not a destabilising one as many have come to regard it.

These are the three...

1. The teaching of scripture.
2. The rationale of conscience.
3. The intuition of prophecy.

Together they form the three witnesses to truth that the Bible tells us are needed, so God has given us the very thing we need to establish the truth of any matter.

When it comes to the search for truth, the scripture says – *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* Then when we look at the armour of God we find – *The sword of the Spirit is the word of God.*

There are two different words in the original ancient Greek scriptures that are generally translated into English as – *the word of God.* One is *logos*, and the other *rhema*. *Logos* is

the fixed word, which is the unchanging person of the Son of God, and that includes the words of God which are the written scriptures. We therefore refer to the scriptures as – *the written word of God*.

However, in the two items of scripture I just quoted, for both of them the word is *rhema*; not *logos*.

1. *Faith comes by the rhema word of God.*
2. *The sword of the Spirit is the rhema word of God.*

Rhema is the now word of God – the word God is speaking at this particular time, into this particular situation, and it often includes a specific part or parts of the *logos* word of scripture. In the broader sense, THIS IS PROPHECY, even if it is only received by and for ourselves personally.

In fact a *rhema* word is always the way a *logos* word comes to us; when God picks up a specific portion of scripture and delivers it to us.

We can put this another way and say God must always be the interpreter of his own word, so we need him to be involved whenever we read it. Without this it is just an academic exercise and is unlikely to be of any real spiritual value.

When it comes to correction we find God really does emerge as a loving Father, and though he disciplines and corrects, it is always done in a way that builds us up, rather than tears us down, and is designed to restore us.

Whenever I hear a corrective prophetic word I always look for these hallmarks, though I must add that even here I would not put God in a box because any rules I make for him he will certainly at some time break.

I have both heard of, and experienced, God rebuking through a thunder clap when he wanted to make a point – and that with only a single small white cloud in the sky. It can happen, believe me. The fear of the Lord is a wise thing. In my case the offence was neglecting to love someone properly

who needed it. In the other case I know of it was a leader having a mardy reaction to God for what was really a minor hardship.

I also remember when someone became sick in a meeting and had to be taken out for care. This was before the days I saw God heal people. The leader was annoyed about it – I presume because it disrupted his service. The following week he himself was taken out sick. I'm not sure but I think this leader learned the lesson.

Beyond this, just to share another case, I remember a definite rebuke from God that came to a leader who I took to experience a speaker who had a remarkable prophetic ministry.

One thing we should realise is that God can be stricter with leaders.

As I drove us there in my car on the journey that took an hour or two, we began to chat about what to expect. This leader then began to tell me all the things he expected God to say to him –

about his book, his ministry, his vision.... Etc. Do you get the picture?

I was more than a little concerned by that as he clearly didn't understand the prophetic. God cannot be controlled like a ventriloquist puppet.

As we arrived, as soon as we walked in the door of the meeting place, this guy we were visiting was already speaking to the congregation and he began to say over and over –

"You call yourself a leader, get out of your box".

"You call yourself a leader, get out of your box."

After that there was no reason to stay longer, even though we stayed, as he had heard all God had to say to him that day, and we had been there for only ten minutes.

The truth is, though this leader was a friend, I knew him to be someone who persistently

put God in a box by his views and his religious impositions.

Don't misunderstand me, this person had a real and close relationship with God. He was unmarried, but he had a relationship with God that was something like a marriage, so I loved and respected him for that, despite his sometimes disagreeable ways. For him God seemed to be ready to speak a much sharper word of rebuke, and it was really undeniable on this occasion.

On another occasion I was led to speak a prophecy to a married couple with a corrective word I received for the wife. I really didn't want to give it because I just knew there would be some fallout from it, but I was strongly impacted by the prophetic revelation that without it this marriage would fail. For that reason God was telling me clearly he wanted me to do it, regardless of the fallout.

The problem was the wife was getting bitter over bad reactions people were having to

some of her ways and attitudes. For her husband she had become difficult to live with. The message to her was this...

You must forgive these people that offended you. Right now you are retreating behind a partition wall into bitterness, refusing to hear God, and he is now banging on the partition wall you created with a hammer, trying to get through to you. The problem is, if you choose to go there God will not stop you, but he will not let you take your husband there with you, because God loves him, so for the sake of yourself and your marriage, please repent and forgive. The Lord wants you to accept yourself as he accepts you, and not be impacted by what others think. Then you can love them also as he wants you to.

The scripture says God's word is sometimes a sword, and sometimes a hammer. And in this case it was clearly the latter.

Later, privately, the husband made a gesture of appreciation because I think he was

close to leaving the marriage. After that there was a change so the marriage didn't break, and this couple decided to remake their marriage vows. However, it still caused a problem for her with me, but that is sometimes the kind of sacrifice God asks us to make.

The other thing that struck me about this prophetic word is that God truly asked me to be a middle man, so it was delivered more as a message from me than from God. That is just the way God wanted it done, rather than as a direct rebuke or another thunder clap or such. You see, God knows all of his children intimately and therefore deals with them all differently, knowing what will bring forth the response he wants.

The point I am making in all this is that prophecy can at times be corrective, just as scripture and the conscience can be corrective.

That said, we must realise that if we are really led to do it we are dealing with someone else's child who loves them in a measure we couldn't

even possibly comprehend. So it is as well to always keep that in mind when it comes to prophesying to others.

11. Evangelism

When it comes to evangelism it is interesting to ask if there is any relationship between evangelism and prophecy.

This brings us to a very key verse in scripture...

Rev 19:10b states:

For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus. (NIV)

For the essence of prophecy is to give a clear witness for Jesus. (NLT)

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (NASB)

The application of this seems to be wider than evangelism, but it certainly includes it as a major part.

The scripture tells us we can all do the work of an

evangelist. Why is that? Because everyone that is born again has a testimony of what they believe and how it has impacted their life.

My experience of evangelism, when I surrender my efforts to God, is that he almost takes over. I become Christ to the world like never before – or that is certainly how it feels.

When I look back, this was not always true as at one time fear seemed to be a real blocker, so God had to liberate me from that first. And please note, it was God who did the liberating. My part was only to be willing for it, and to ask him to do it. Then it was over to him to lead me through it.

That doesn't mean he in any way overrode my will in the process. It required me to respond to him, as and when I was led to do so. But make no mistake, this is something that requires God – whether to bring deliverance, or to change the way we think, or to create the circumstances that would lead to the opportunities.

It's a universal lesson, but one we all have to learn
– That of myself I can do NOTHING.

This too is part of the testimony of Jesus; that he is the master craftsman, and we his workmanship. Evangelism is just part of that, but a key one.

Think about this – prophecy carries authority. That's an obvious thing because it is the very expression of God; assuming it is true prophecy, of course.

To put this another way, when we speak prophetically, we are speaking from the same source that called the universe into being. If it is God, it is that powerful. Of course if it is just myself speaking then it is of comparatively little consequence – a mere '*will-o'-the-wisp*', to coin a phrase. But God's word is something else. When spoken it waters the earth and does not return to him without accomplishing its purpose.

Evangelism, therefore, as the testimony of Jesus, is backed by the very creator of the universe,

though what I have found by experience is it must be rooted in faith. We need to know our authority to wield it. In the knowing and believing is the power.

Sometimes when we go out to evangelise we begin by kneeling in the street and praying. That is not an essential, so I wouldn't like to make it a ritual, but it proved to be an effective way to get into that believing state. After we did it and rose to our feet to begin, I would often feel like we owned the street and anyone that came by had to be impacted by that. We also found people were always quite respectful of that act of kneeling and praying, as most of them knew exactly what we were doing.

At times I have known members of the public to realise we had a powerful presence of God with us, and so come and sit nearby to soak it up, perhaps watching the prayer and the miracles, or just enjoying the restfulness of it.

While in London, during the Olympics, we were

spending our whole day in the *worship burn*, except for several hours on the street each day ministering healing to any that came to receive it. The *worship burn* lasted a whole 30 days – day and night, and I noticed how it was passing through a spiritual cycle in our worship.

One day we would find ourselves battling, somehow. It's hard to explain but we felt we were coming up against resistance. At the end of such a day we would feel the effects of it, which would be a kind of weariness that felt like we couldn't face another day like that.

Then on the following day when we gathered ourselves again for another day of spiritual battle, we would begin the day as the previous one ended, but at some point there would be a strong prophetic sense of breakthrough. This was without anyone speaking it. There was just a spiritually discernible shift in atmosphere. At the end of this day we would feel reinvigorated and refreshed, sensing the breakthrough.

Then came the third day of the cycle which would be a day of glorious celebration when the presence of God sometimes became almost tangible. We prophetically knew we had broken through, and we were enjoying the spoils of the victory.

I found this cycle would repeat for as long as we continued to worship. That means on the day after a celebration day we could be back in a battle, and for some that could be disappointing. But if you understood the cycle you would certainly know it would be worth it.

During this life changing event, many Christians came to us from around the country, and even from abroad. If they happened to arrive on a day of celebration they would certainly never forget it, and maybe go away thinking it was always like that. But the truth was much more dynamic than that, with constant change.

Over the event I realised that we were not

in fact just circling around. We were spiralling upwards. Every breakthrough was lifting us higher until the spiritual skies became blue and we found a place where no devil or demon could stand to be. That was how I prophetically felt and discerned what was happening.

What then convinced me that this was real, and not just something I had imagined, came while out on the streets ministering healing to the general public.

A policeman was standing nearby watching what we were doing. There were maybe six chairs we put out there in the street, all with someone sitting on them, each attended to by several believers who were praying for healing. I saw the policeman watching and decided to go over and speak to him. After introducing myself he said to me – *This is great isn't it?* I said – *Do you mean the healing?* He said – *No, I mean my radio, it's been silent for three days.*

This was indeed a miracle because police

radios in London are never silent, not even for five minutes, let alone for three days in a packed city during the Olympics when there are more opportunities for crime than ever. This policeman had somehow related this to what we were doing.

So I came to realise how we were impacting the city. The same atmosphere that was coming down in the *worship burn* was also coming down on the whole city. In fact there were many people in the country praying over this event, but we got to experience the real effects of it, and it was useful and a real blessing to be prophetically aware of what was happening, as many of us were.

Since that time people of all kinds seem to have randomly commented to me that they were in *London* during this Olympic event, and how amazing the atmosphere was during that time – as if God was reminding me of it to whet my appetite for more.

Evangelism is a wonderful calling. If we do it we will bless the heart of God in a way that nothing

else can. When we see healing on the streets it certainly evokes an atmosphere of celebration. But when people come and surrender their lives to Christ it can become as if angels are dancing in the streets.

Over time I found I discovered the authority I have in evangelism is the same as it is for healing. When we believe we start to move in a higher gifting of not just telling people about Jesus, but of actually calling them into the Kingdom. And if we add to that all the prophetic gifting of prophecy, knowledge, wisdom, and faith, we begin to see a real answer to that often repeated prayer – *Thy Kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven.*

12. Halifax

One day I went for a day out to visit a town in England and on the way back, as I was driving on the motorway, I was about to pass the town of *Halifax*.

At that moment God gave me a clear leading to go into the town. This was not a town I had ever visited before.

As I drove around the town I just tried to follow the lead of the Spirit and take the right turns as the Lord led me. Then as I passed a paved area I was led to stop, park the car, and walk around that area. Then as I stood in that area God gave me a prophetic word and said to me – *Healing on the streets here*. So before I left as I stood there I prayed and decreed it to happen.

At this time I had been doing *Healing on the Streets* evangelism in the city of Nottingham for two years, which is about 75 miles from the town of *Halifax*.

That led me to wonder if God was calling me to go and work in *Halifax* instead, but I simply decided to go home and pray for clarity on what God was leading me to do.

Then two days after this, the church I was working with in *Nottingham* got a phone call from someone who felt God was leading them to do *Healing on the Streets* in their town and they were asking if they could come and experience it with us. This person was from a church in *Halifax*.

We then set up a day for them to come, which they did. After which they invited us to come and speak to the people in their town that were feeling a call to do this, so later we went to *Halifax* to instruct them and encourage them, and I was able to tell them what had happened to me just days before, which for them was an amazing confirmation that this was God leading them.

As we finished this meeting they then said to us – *Would you like to come and see where on*

the streets we plan to do it? They then led us on a short walk from the church we were visiting to the exact spot where I had stood and heard God say only days earlier – *Healing on the streets here.*

That was all the involvement I had with this work as I was already committed to doing evangelism elsewhere, but it was a delight for God to let me to be part of the start of it, and later to hear how well it was doing.

What I heard was some monks from a local monastery had decided to come and join them in that work. These guys were full of God, and full of love, and they became a huge hit and blessing to the people of the town as they joined the work there each week, praying for healing, fully dressed in their habits, complete with their crosses and artefacts.

Yes, the prophetic life is a great blessing and an exciting adventure, where we experience for real the truth that – *Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.*

13. God Speaks Your Language

One thing you sometimes see with people who know each other well is they develop a personal language between them of their own. Things they both understand to which others are not privy. You see this a lot with older married couples. They just get tuned in to each other in a unique and special way.

The same kind of thing happens between a person and God where there is a prophetic flow for any length of time. God knows you intimately anyway, and he will often speak to you in ways that he knows you as an individual will understand or appreciate.

For example, God knows my particular sense of humour and at times he really makes me laugh.

Take for example the time I casually said to God – *Why is Satan always so grumpy?* Now this wasn't a serious question. I was in a playful mood

and I decided to ask God a playful question. But the answer came straight back to me – *You would be grumpy too if your pants were permanently on fire.*

Now in case you didn't get the joke, we have a children's rhyme in my culture that goes – *Liar, liar, your pants are on fire*, which is supposed to be used when you want to playfully suggest someone is lying.

In fact I recently saw a news article about a particular politician whose pants had been periodically bursting into flame through spontaneous combustion, which was an oblique and comical way of saying you couldn't trust a word they said. Fake news, of course, but quite funny, and complete with AI generated imagery that put it beyond dispute.

This was just God's response to my playful question – to answer me in the same way I spoke to him in a way that he knew would appeal to my sense of humour.

I am really just pointing that out to highlight how rich a relationship with God can be if you have that prophetic flow.

As you embrace God he even allows you to invent your own language. At times I have seen Christian teachers giving a standard interpretation for every dream and vision, but in truth it often has personalised meaning so you have to be careful that you don't put God in a box.

To give you an example of this, I am a developer of software which I own, and I sell licenses to people who decide to buy it.

This software was developed over many years and God was the creative force behind it, as he is with all creativity, if we only realised it.

Selling the software has always been a challenge so as well as asking God to help me create it, I also often pray for him to send me sales. He then sends out his angels who find some

buyers. Then one day I was out walking in nature and I saw a *goldfinch* – my favourite little bird. I then said to God – *Thank you for the goldfinch, I am going to take that, by faith, as a sign sales are coming*, and of course within a very short time sales came in. From there on, whenever I saw a goldfinch I took it as a sign of promise, and almost invariably saw the response in sales.

Then there came a time when God led me to author my first book. It took three months to write, at a time when money was quite scarce, but I did it in obedience.

Then as I finished the book I was in desperate need of income so I went out for a walk to pray.

As I walked I saw a flock of goldfinches, which was quite unusual as I normally only ever saw them as individuals. I took that as a sign by faith and within days a bank check for a significant amount of money came through the post for something I was not expecting for another five years.

So from that point on, for me goldfinches became a personal language that I developed with God, which may have been inspired by him, but at the same time was of my own making.

More recently I was in need of money and began to see goldfinches in various places. I even went with friends in a car to pick up people on the way to church and discovered they lived on a road named '*Goldfinch Crescent*' which I immediately took as confirmation God was about to meet my need.

However, this time nothing seemed to materialise, but God did enable me to scrape through, as always, and that went on for another six months. Then I began to see goldfinches again, in abundance, but this time online. No other bird, just goldfinches. I noted this, but didn't jump to a conclusion this time, but then within days I received word of money coming that was owed to me that had been delayed for years.

I then went to God for an explanation – *Why did I not see a result six month ago?* He said – *It was delayed*, and he gave me an understanding of what happened behind the scenes.

Sometimes the devil chooses to fight God's purposes, so he obstructs and blocks blessing in a hope we will abandon faith and lose it. It is his choice where and when he does this – to make a battle of it, and he is careful about the decision because it can occupy significant resources for him to blockade us. But in the end, if he fails, it is a complete waste of resources for him. He only picks the battle because he thinks he can win, or if there is a reward for him he really wants so he is willing to take the risk.

God reminded me of the wise strategy of Napoleon and others in war – *Never interrupt the enemy when he is making a mistake.*

By this I understood that the devil was making a mistake, and God had decided to let him do it. That led to delays, but in the end it came through

and radically boosted my faith, making me a much more unlikely target for the future because I learned a lesson about standing firm and resisting the devil, even when I don't understand what is happening.

Once again I have to point out what a great thing prophecy is, and an indispensable way to get intimate with God as we hear him and he leads us through the challenges of life, even with our own personal language.

14. Intimacy with God

Intimacy with God is actually a hugely valuable thing, almost certainly beyond anything else we can have either in this world or the next. The scriptures speak of it as – *Riches or treasures of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding*. Our abundant life, as the scriptures describe it, is very much rooted in these things where our minds become aligned with our spirit as we are transformed in our thinking.

Abraham became a friend of God, and God said to him – *I am your shield, your very great reward*. Not riches, not success, not fame, not friends or family. God himself is the great reward.

However, when I look back I certainly didn't start out that way. My first seven years as a Christian were embroiled in legalism and a poor concept of who God is, even though I didn't realise it back then. Then after 'crashing and burning' under the psychological load of those ideas, God gave me an understanding of his grace

– his unconditional love; his favour; not based on my performance but given freely.

From that experience I came to understand God very differently – like he was another person to the one I thought I knew.

Later there was a time when I was sitting at my computer typing something and God began to say to me – *There is something I want to tell you.*

Of course I wanted to hear it but I was so engrossed in finishing the sentence I was typing I replied – *Just one moment please*, and I carried on typing. But he just carried on speaking, ignoring what I said, which was his way of saying that what he was about to tell me was far more important than anything I was doing at the time.

First he asked me a question – *Do you remember how you used to think of me?* Referring me back to my early days in legalism. I said – Yes (*still typing*). Then he said – *And you know how you think of me now?* I said – Yes (*still typing*). Then he

said – *Well the difference between what you think now and the truth is greater than the difference between what you thought back then and what you think now.*

Wham! Now he had my full attention!

That hit me. You see the transformation in my knowledge and understanding of who God is was radical, but now God is telling me I am not even halfway to the full truth. That was mind boggling for me.

Since that time I have come to realise this journey into God is not just lifelong, it is eternal. There will always be more of God to discover, so my present revelation is just a tiny, i.e. infinitesimal fraction of what there is to discover. God himself is an eternal adventure, and all of us are just beginners.

Later there came another step change when God prophetically revealed to me truths about the *seven-fold Spirit of God*, as spoken of in the Book

of Revelation, and declared in the book of Isaiah. Again I saw God in a whole new way, which again changed how I relate to him – something I wrote about in my first book.

It is impossible to comprehend just how much more of this is yet to come. As the scriptures tells us, it is beyond anything we can think or imagine, but God only leads us into a deeper step when we are good and ready for it. Usually when we are close to finishing processing the last step, which can takes some time.

One thing we can be sure of is that we will be worshipping God from the heart eternally, and be as transfixed by him as we see the angels are in scripture. But that journey has already started for us now, as it has for all believers who are his beloved children.

15. Chatsworth

Sometimes seemingly minor events can have a lifelong impact.

In my early years as a Christian I had my share of psychological battles. Most of it was against religious Spirits that had come down the generational line somehow.

This was around the time God gave me a glimpse of heaven to bring me comfort when those battles, together with difficult circumstances, got overwhelming.

In one of those times I was led to take a break from work and I went to visit *Chatsworth House* in *Derbyshire, England*. The house is stuffed with artefacts that were either bought or plundered during the days of empire.

For example, there is an Egyptian statue there, made of granite, which is over 3500 years old. It struck me that Moses could have walked past it,

or even touched it.

As I enjoyed the many art pieces, the one that stole the show for me were two huge marble lions that looked so finely carved it felt like they may at any moment stand up and roar.

As I was admiring these sculptures another visitor near me made a comment – '*Magnificent aren't they?*' I agreed, and in that moment God gave me a whole prophetic revelation of the soul of the person that was speaking to me. I knew without asking this was a mature believer and I was given a glimpse of the peace they were enjoying as a permanent feature of their life. In that moment God said to me – *This is what I am leading you too.*

As I was in inner turmoil at the time, this revelation had a huge impact on me, even though little more was said, and nothing immediately changed. It assured me that God was in control of my development, and like these lions, he was carving something exquisitely beautiful, and fit for

the heaven I had glimpsed.

Even though I still have my difficult seasons and times of challenge, there is no question, at this stage of my life that I have come into the fullness of that promise.

For many I find the Christian life can be summed up as a journey out of religion, and into the love of God. That is certainly how it has been for me.

16. Filigree

Many times God has put a single word in my mind and used it to prophetically speak to me, and sometimes it was a word I had never heard before, or one I knew of but didn't know the full meaning.

One of these came when for a while I was feeling tension. I just felt kind of stressed and not quite at ease with myself, where the spiritual fruits of love, joy, and peace seemed to be lacking.

I was praying about this and I got the word '*filigree*'. I had never heard that word before so I had to look it up and I found it is metal or wire artwork that appears like fine lace. Very ornate and beautiful.

This kind of work is created with pliers that finely twist, stretch, and curve the metal into shape, clearly stressing it in the same kind of way I was feeling.

What I then saw in vision was that God was making a kind of breastplate that was very ornate, made of gold and silver filigree. A true work of art. I could see him forming the metal like lace, but also forming gold settings for jewels that would be fitted into this artwork.

I already understood that jewels are a parallel symbol in the scriptures for the fruit of the Spirit – the fruit that Jesus said would last. They have shape and colour, like fruit, but they don't decay – they are eternal.

What God showed me was he was working on me as a master craftsmen does with his artwork. For now the jewels I normally enjoyed had been set aside while this work was done, but he was making permanent settings for them. Once ready these jewels would be fitted back into the breastplate and I would then experience his love, joy, and peace again.

Such a thing will only be fully revealed in heaven, but God is working away on every one of

us like this. We are his workmanship, not our own, and only he knows how to complete it.

17. Bless and be Blessed

There is no question that personal prophecy has been a key source of spiritual development for me, as much as scripture or the ministry of others.

But God never intended us to only use it for ourselves. In fact the scriptures speak of churches where prophecy is in full flow, that for people who come in among you, *the secrets of their heart will be revealed and they will fall down on their face and acknowledge God is among you.*

You see prophecy is a demonstration of God's power, as much as healing and miracles are. And this is how the Kingdom of God is really expressed.

As the scripture says – *It is better to give than to receive*, and that is not just true for money but for everything of value that we have to give.

I have therefore found it to be universally true, that when I seek to prophesy to bless others, I invariably get blessed myself.

When we prophesy, because we are not the original source of the message, we learn. And the scriptures tell us we can be enriched by treasures of wisdom and knowledge, so by prophecy we can find ourselves really prospering spiritually through what we learn by it.

Take for example the time someone asked us in church to pray for them to have a child as they were having trouble conceiving.

When I went to God about it, I first listened for any word God was speaking about it. On this occasion there was a strange sense that this was an easy prayer – almost unnecessary. Later I discovered they had already conceived, which explained that prophetic sense. However, I did get more of a prophetic download on their case as God showed me their full future family, and told

me he was '*excited*' about the child that was already on the way.

'Excited' seemed to me to be a strange word from God about himself, so my question back to him was – *How can you as God be excited when you are the same yesterday, today, and forever?* God's reply to me was – *Yes, I am, but I am eternally excited about this child.*

God will often throw a prophetic comment at you that takes some time to process, but ends up causing a paradigm shift in your thinking.

I came to realise God was not just telling me that he is eternally excited about this child that was coming, but that he is eternally excited about every one of us who are his children, including me! After all, in scripture it says we are the '*apple of his eye*' – which is basically scripture saying exactly the same thing.

You see, as a born again believer who is now living an eternal spiritual life, you are I like a

golden thread in the tapestry of God's eternal universe that affects God's creation infinitely, because by definition eternity is infinite. When you think about that, why would God not be eternally excited about you?

That kind of understanding of how God actually feels about us can be life changing. So from there that sense of value God places on every soul has always been with me when I interact with them, whoever they are.

Or when I am doing evangelism and I encounter a new potential believer, I have a deeper understanding about them that they are even a source of excitement for God. No wonder he is with me when I do it. And no wonder angels dance when we succeed.

You get the same kind of thing in scripture. Take for example when the *rich young ruler* came to Jesus and said – '*Good teacher*'. Then before he even got to his question Jesus responded with – *Why do call me good, only God is good.*

He didn't realise it at that moment, but what Jesus said to him there actually answered all of his questions. In the final analysis what Jesus had said was – *I am God. Only I am good. You are not good. Your good deeds are therefore not enough so you need me.*

Personally I find it is verses like this that put the immense value of scripture beyond question. When people ask for proof of God, the depth and wisdom of these writings are unquestionably part of it.

Later, I'm guessing, as this young man meditated on this answer he would have realised all this was true. This is where we see the rational mind scrambling to catch up with a prophetic revelation. And it is a great example of how God can pack a whole life-changing revelation into a mere sentence.

18. Religious Spirits

Religious spirits are demonic entities that work within the domain of religion. As always they seek to deceive so they can steal, kill, and destroy.

One thing they do is they push us to perform to make us try to justify our salvation. I mentioned at the beginning that I am not in any way motivated by such tyranny – not any longer.

The Bible says – *For freedom Christ has set us free*. Which I understand to mean that Christ has set us free for no other reason than he wants us to be free.

When I came to understand *grace*, it liberated me from this kind of religious tyranny. That in turn had the unexpected effect of liberating me to work for Christ as I never could before, and that is how I have lived ever since – free of the incessant, worldly, competitive religious clamour.

When I was led to go to Nottingham to evangelise it was from that place of freedom. I was simply on an adventure with God.

When I got there, out on the streets there were quite a number of street preachers that had an aggressive and threatening message. However, by this time I was enjoying my Christian life so much, this just seemed like a travesty when we have this *good news* of the great adventure God has invited us into; full of his love, joy and peace, and all of it by grace.

I already covered it, but our work there in Nottingham was just a continuation of that adventure.

Sometime later I came across the testimony of a prophetic man that many will remember, who decided to go with a team and take his prophetic gift to *New Age* fairs where there was every kind of dodgy spiritual activity you could think of – Mediums, Spiritualists, Tarot readers, Palm readers, Witches etc. – you get the picture.

He set up a prophecy tent and began to demonstrate the real thing, rather than these diabolical substitutes.

After a while some of the mediums and spiritualists came to talk to him. They asked – *Who are you?* To which he explained they were Christians who believed in the Bible and they were offering prophecy as the Bible taught it. Their next question was – *How come you have a golden aura?* To which this guy replied – *Why do you ask?* They then said – *Normally the Christians who come around here have a grey aura, not this golden one that you have. Why are you different?* He then realised they were talking about the Christians who were coming there to do '*spiritual warfare*' as they called it.

Religious spirits are in fact a real challenge, and they sometimes slip in undetected. But God has also given us another gift of *Discerning of Spirits*, which is closely related to prophecy, and it is also there for the asking. By it we can avoid getting

duped in this kind of way so we bring the *good news* to the people God sends us to, only focusing on deliverance when we are clearly led to do so.

I remember reading of another Pastor who sometimes found the worship in his church was a little slow, so he got into the habit of stopping the service and rebuking all the demons. They would then recommence the service and the worship would take-off.

Then one day he was praying in his vestry and the Lord asked him – *Why are you worshipping demons?* He then realised his mistake. From there he simply ignored the demons and the worship would take-off anyway.

You see demons have a clamour for attention because they know as long as you are focused on them, you will not be focused on God.

One thing a mentor of mine always said was – *We only have two things to say to the devil, which is shut up and get out.* And we only do that when

they clearly get in the way; when the Spirit leads us to do it; and we quickly get back to focusing on God when we've done it.

We have to be careful about how much attention we give to the realm of darkness because we are called to be light to the world, but our enemy is always on a mission to either extinguish or dim that light and instead make us an ambassador of darkness.

19. Idolatry

Idolatry comes in many forms. For some it is actual physical idols and in doing evangelism on the streets I have certainly come across that at times.

At times I saw Indian Hindus delivered from demonic oppression, then healed, then saved, then they went home and got their idols, brought them back, and dumped them in the public bins.

However, idolatry can be towards other things.

It can be towards a man, or his gift, which can even be prophecy. God's answer to that in our day seems to be to give his gifts widely so few can see themselves as unique or special.

In fact God has always led me to try to give my best away, whatever it is, knowing that will further the Kingdom of God more than anything else I can do, and that God will always lead me on

to more and greater things. This book is just another example of that.

Just as either a prophet or the gift of prophecy can become an idol, so can the Bible. I call it Bibliolatry.

I find when the Bible is seen as the only means of coming God, or hearing God, it verges on becoming an idol. It seems to me God gave us other sources of truth to challenge that idea, but at times we see the Bible even replacing God rather than leading us to him, which is idolatry for sure.

Material wealth can also become an idol, but God's answer to that for most believers seems to be to show them his provision in times of need so they understand that is all under his control and he can financially bless us whenever he chooses, which changes our whole outlook. However, it still sometimes gets a grip and needs to be challenged.

Once when my finances were tight, we went shopping for the family and I felt compassion for people who don't have enough food. As we shopped I meditated on what food I felt should be cheap and always available for the hungry. I decided cans of baked beans was the answer, and I was then led to pray for it to happen.

We shopped monthly, and by the next time we visited this shop what they call the '*beans war*' began, where cans of baked beans began selling for mere pennies per can.

The supermarkets were subsidising the price of beans as a competitive strategy, creating a talking point that led many to choose their store instead of the competition.

One surprising area where God has had me challenge idolatry is where parents have idolised their children.

I remember two cases where a child was rebelling against the faith of a parent and the

parent was actually considering abandoning their faith so as not to lose their child.

In one of those cases God had me prophetically challenge the parent by saying – *God wants you to make a firm decision about this. He wants you to choose whether you are going to follow him or your child.*

As I said before, God is not a tyrant. He didn't want me to twist their arm by telling them the right thing to do, but just to bring the matter to a head so they would seriously think about it and make a firm decision.

It is actually quite strange that a parent may come to need this, but idols tend to have a blinding effect where we get used to them, and then no longer really see it. This prophetic word was designed to bring the matter back into focus.

The truth is, if we really have the interests of a child at heart, we will stick firmly to our faith and show them this is non-negotiable, whatever

they choose. After all, this is the only thing that can save them, if that is what we really care about.

That seems like obvious cut-and-dried logic, but wherever there are idols, there are demons, and they have a way of getting a firm grip, in which case some form of deliverance will be needed.

20. Legalism

Something I never considered for a long time is that *Legalism* is accompanied by demons. In hindsight it makes perfect sense, as it is a whole way of thinking and all that demons do is rooted in some form of deception.

Legalists think legalism just means being too strict, or focusing on minor things as if they are bigger matters, but that itself is a doctrine of demons, designed to cover up the truth.

Legalism is actually a false gospel that is based on a completely different set of principles to the true gospel that is wholly based on grace.

And what is most shocking is the Bible tells us legalism is a curse.

My mother suffered badly from her Legalistic views. The demons attached to her through it would sometimes cause mental torment as they

continually pressured her to perform to justify her salvation.

I inherited those ideas from my parents, but there came a time where God led me to move away from them as it was the only way for me to come out of that trap, given that I was raised with it.

Please understand that my parents were true and devoted children of God, but the problem was, half of their Christian life was rooted in fear rather than faith and grace.

Towards the end of my Mother's life she was infirm, yet still the demons would torment her for not performing, and she would even compound her suffering by berating herself for being tormented.

She was hoping for a better end, and hated the fact it was so difficult, but that again was her desperation to perform and be seen to succeed.

I sometimes spoke to her about death, and she would say she wanted to go home to the Lord, but the Lord had said to her if she left now it would not be a victory.

Many times I prayed with her, and at times saw some relief, but I had to grow in my own understanding of deliverance, and I had to realise that Legalism has such demons attached to it, even though I had got free of it myself.

Then there came a time when I went to Africa and saw a lot of deliverance. When I returned God said to me – *Now go and deliver your mother.*

As I was on my way to see her I was again due to go to stay in Africa for some time, and I knew it may be our last meeting as she was now age 90.

Then as I was on my way to see her I began to see a vision of myself in a room trying to deliver someone. At the side of the room was a huge angel, standing in a military pose, just looking

straight forward. As the demon was commanded to leave it was resisting, but then the angel just turned its head and looked straight at the demon. That got its immediate attention and alarmed it, upon which it quickly fled.

When I arrived to see my mother I told her about the deliverance experience I had in Africa, and she then said with conviction – *that is what I need.*

I then took her through the necessary prayers of deliverance and saw something lift from her, so it happened in exactly the way I had seen in the vision. I think this demon knew its time was up and put up little resistance.

After that we said goodbye and I left for Africa, but then within two weeks she had a heart attack and passed away. I believe the thing that was preventing her leaving for heaven was dealt with; she had her victory, and God took her home.

The lesson for me is that *Legalism* is not just an idea, it is a false doctrine that has spirits attached to it, and it has to be dealt with in a spiritual way.

Prophecy and the *Discerning of Spirits* are gifts that are meant to accompany deliverance. Without them people will continue to suffer as the problem will most likely go undetected.

21. Seasons

With God there are seasons. Some of them are a trial, but if you are in a tough one be encouraged that the season can change very quickly with God. Even seasons that seem to have dragged on forever.

Often a new season is heralded by prophecy for the new season as God prepares you for what is coming. If you are open to it, prophecy may come directly, or through others that God will use to speak to you.

Towards the end of a season you also often find yourself getting really fed up with the current season, like a pregnant mother does when she gets near the end of her term. It's like a natural thing that happens to make them ready to go through the birth.

The first ten years of my career were in mining. Then one Christmas I was asked to go into the mine to engage in some work that had to be done

during the holiday shutdown, as I had at times before.

This time I really didn't want to go as I felt the need for some quality time with God, so I prayed – *God please get me out of this.*

The following morning I woke up and my skin was completely yellow. The doctor signed me off for Christmas with the best excuse I ever had – *Sorry boss I turned yellow.*

I then spent the Christmas holiday praying for God to move me on as I felt the time had come with this job, and I came into a conviction that I should apply for redundancy in early February, which I did.

It took six weeks to get an answer as no-one from my job level had ever previously had redundancy from my industry, and they asked me when I wanted to leave. I said – *The end of the tax year at the end of March.* To which there was an

awkward silence I didn't understand, but they agreed.

Then within a few days a meeting was called by the mine management to discuss something, and we were told the mine was closing at the end of March; the very time I had chosen to leave.

This was a mine that had been open for over 100 years and it was the first in the area to ever close. God has a way of confirming a move when he wants to encourage us.

Another time I remember God led me on from a church by someone prophesying to me – *I see green fields before you.* Within six weeks I found myself living away from the city I was in and near the seaside, helping a shepherd gather in his sheep. None of which was expected.

Believe me, seasons can change remarkably quickly with God.

22. Writing

I mentioned before that writing was something I was at some point led to do. For me it came at age 50 where my beliefs had become bedrock for me, despite the ongoing learning curve.

In fact each decade of my Christian walk seems to have had a different call on it, which again is an adventure – especially when I think of what may be yet to come.

God has certainly given me hints at some of that, and in some cases a foretaste, as he has for heaven, which I previously wrote about.

If writing is to advance the Kingdom then it is important it is done with God's leading and in his timing, as I believe I am again doing here.

Prophetic writing tends to have elements of both old and new, as the scriptures describe it. We draw from our storehouse, but then God adds new revelation.

Reading should also be done as God leads, and when it all comes together the evidence should be the experience of faith rising in the reader in some way. God is then able to make the link so he can use what is written by his Spirit to bless and increase those who he leads to read it.

You can never be sure whether a book will be received or find a good circulation. But we don't have to concern ourselves with that. What matters is only that we do what God is asking of us. It may be his purpose to just bless the writer. We really don't know unless he specifically tells us.

For some people they just have one book in them – no more. But God has a way of imparting special blessing if it is done in obedience to him, so we should never despise that because some of those books are real treasures that will uniquely and immensely bless us if we unearth them.

For me, writing has always been a prophetic experience. In writing my first book I spent each

night receiving the next chapter by revelation of the Spirit, and the following day writing it. There is something very organic and natural about it, at the same time as being profoundly spiritual.

What we need to realise is that all truly spiritual books are prophetic in nature. As the scripture instructs, *let anyone who speaks do so as speaking the very words of God*. Writing is the same.

23. Corporate Prophecy

One of the most formative seasons I had in the use of prophecy came when I was in a megachurch of nearly 2000 people. There the leaders formed a team, gave us instruction, with some practice on each other, and then set up an environment where we could use the gift to bless the church members.

We had a large room set up with small tables, enough for just two people. There were table cloths and candles, just to give the room a nice ambience, and people who wanted to receive were invited to come and take a seat by themselves and relax at a table while the twenty or so members of the prophetic team would hang out around the room endeavouring to listen to God for any individual they were drawn to. Then as we felt we received something from God we would take a seat with the person and deliver what we had, preferably with a fair dose of humility because no prophecy should go untested as it may be mistaken.

This was actually both a profound responsibility, and a real blessing, because many that came to these sessions had real, and sometimes deep needs.

One great thing about it was where multiple members of the team had sat and prophesied to a person, afterwards we were able to compare notes. Through that we discovered how remarkably confirmatory, and complimentary our prophetic messages were.

We also sometimes discovered that not all we thought we heard prophetically was accurate. That would usually become evident very quickly when we tried to deliver it. The affirmation of the Spirit was always either with it, or not. And if not it always had a bit of a spiritual clang to it.

That was never an enjoyable experience so a little practice soon made us check our spirit more carefully before delivering anything, and it always encouraged us to maintain a good dose of

humility in what we delivered.

However, even then we still sometimes made some blunders, which is something I have yet to cover – see later.

No-one seems to progress without these occasional missteps, but it is all part of the normal learning curve and it is something we have to accept, and pray God covers it so we don't do any damage.

I will say more about blunders later, but there are numerous cases I could relate of accurate prophecy during this time, though I will limit myself to one that was a particular blessing, just to give an example.

As I milled around the room I was drawn to a lady who had her back to me, and I was simply given the message for her that God was going to put a smile on her face. That was enough to sit down with because I knew the Spirit would add the rest as I began to speak.

When I sat down with this person I saw she had the saddest face. I delivered the word to her and told her God knew she loved people a lot, but she was unnecessarily taking the weight of the world on her shoulders, which was making her sad. I explained that God was giving her the gift of intercession and her job was simply to cast off the burdens she felt onto the Lord, as the scripture says we should.

This lady turned out to be heavily pregnant which I think had affected her hormones to some degree, and possibly her sleep, so these things were exacerbating her mental condition.

As normal when a prophetic word is accurate, she showed a strong resonance with it and you could even see the load lifting from her as I spoke – something that always had a degree of job satisfaction to see it.

I chose this case in particular because it had some feedback to it. As the church was large

I had never seen this lady before, and afterwards only saw her once at a distance. But this last time she was on the church welcome team with the biggest smile I had ever seen. I am sure God showed me that to encourage me to keep going with the prophetic as it was clearly doing some profound good.

The truth is, prophecy is really meant to be corporate so it can be tested and approved, and so others can learn through that testing. This is something the church has not rediscovered in a big way even now, but it was the common practice of the early church so I think we can expect at some time for God to lead us to rediscover how best to do that.

For the time being the lack of testing means we can expect some prophetic blunders to get through for now, which I believe is profoundly better than seeking to rule out prophecy altogether, as some have. But, as I already said, I will discuss this further in a later chapter.

The one further thing I would add before we move on is that my method of testing prophecy for myself was always to be ready to cast off any thought that didn't have some real affirmation of the Spirit on it and keep searching my spirit for something accurate.

At the beginning I may even cast off five or six thoughts that came to me because they didn't have the inner affirmation I needed, and I would say to God – *if you want me to prophesy then you have to give me something that has more affirmation and resonance to it.*

I have come to believe God really loves it when we take such an approach because he sees us committed to honesty and truth which is a key virtue in these things, and I found whenever I did that, a true prophetic word would soon come.

The encouraging thing with this experience is that once we began to move in true prophecy, from there it always seemed to flow freely, though we still always applied the due

diligence of personal testing before we delivered anything.

24. Getting the Gift of Prophecy

The clue on how to get the gift of prophecy is there in the title – it is a *gift*. How do we get gifts from God? – We ask for them.

Can it really be that simple?

Well, there is the precondition that you must really want it, but then I guess you wouldn't be asking for it if you didn't.

When you look at scripture there is a famous place where Jesus himself says to us *Ask, Seek, and Knock*, and then he applies this specifically to the gift of his Spirit, saying – *If your child asks for bread will you give them a stone? Or if they ask for an egg with you give them a serpent? So if you give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father give you the good gift of his Spirit when you ask him?*

You see, the Spirit of God is God himself, and he is the greatest gift.

Now one thing to be aware of is there are different levels to this. One is to be born of the Spirit and thereby become a new creature, which is the most fundamental level.

This, of course, is the most important thing that we would seek to establish in everyone, or else they have nothing and have not even begun their spiritual life.

But beyond this is another level which is the baptism of fire. When John the Baptist did his job and declared Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, he said – *I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

To move in the gifts of the Spirit, including prophecy, it is essential to be baptised in fire.

As someone from a Pentecostal background, this was understood as a given. However, what I came to realise is this is not a given for many other parts of the church, but a lost truth.

Baptism in the Spirit is a real thing, and it is something that only comes by wanting it, and by asking for it, and this can take a little time. The Book of the Acts of the Apostles records how Jesus instructed the Apostles to go to Jerusalem and wait for it – i.e. to tarry for it.

Yet from experience we know that many receive it quickly; almost at the same time as they are born again.

Let me share with you what I have come to understand about this.

Our God is not the kind of God to impose anything on us. He gives us a choice, just as he does when it comes to being born again. For that reason in John chapter 1 we are told Jesus came to give all of us *the right* to become a child of God.

God didn't impose it. He just cleared the way for anyone to have it if they chose it, because this is how God works. He is no tyrant, and he

seems to resist to the last any action that would compromise that. In other words he needs our cooperation when it comes to involving us in his work, or even in becoming his child.

But why is that?

When it comes to the baptism of fire, I believe what God is looking for is a wholesale commitment to him, and a consecration to his purpose – as much as we are able to give it. This, I believe, is because when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit and fire we enter the spiritual battle in this world in a much greater way. Through it we can find ourselves on the front line of the battle, and that brings with it many challenges.

For those that are baptised in this way quickly and easily, I believe that is because God sees the wholesale nature of the surrender of the individual to him, so they are committed and ready for anything.

For myself I was brought into the Kingdom

through a message that demanded that kind of commitment, but with many people these days, that is not the case. Sometimes a message of prosperity is preached so people come in committed only on that basis, which is never enough to be used radically by God.

I find such people are slowly led to a greater commitment as they encounter the trials that come as part of the deal as a Christian, and as they remain with God anyway despite it.

However, even with that full commitment there still often seems to be a time of tarrying for the baptism of fire where we come to a place where we know and understand what we are asking for, and the costs that come with it.

Some would consider this and be reticent about receiving such baptism, but that I believe is part of the reason God has led me to write this book. He wants me to explain that the '*abundant life*' flows through it from the gifts of the Spirit, and especially prophecy. Baptism of the Spirit may

launch us into battle, but it also launches us into abundant living

You see, prophecy is declared by the *Apostle Paul* to be the greatest of the gifts of the Spirit because it leads us into that life of vision and revelation that is there for all, as prophesied by the prophet *Joel* (*Joel 2:28*) in the Old Testament, and affirmed by the *Apostle Peter* in the New Testament when he was baptised in the Spirit.

To opt out of it is to opt out of the very thing Jesus spoke of as '*abundant life*', where there is a flow surging up from within and filling our whole being. Without it we may narrow down our Christian life to a relationship with a book far more than directly by interaction with his Spirit.

Don't get me wrong, the book is invaluable. But the book itself speaks of the things I am talking about so it really can't be avoided that this is how it is intended to be, even if many have tried to avoid it – and often succeeded, I might add.

Of course we are all different, and God knows that better than any because he made us. So the manifestation of the Spirit that comes through baptism in the Spirit will be uniquely tailored by God for each person, so there is no reason to be fearful of it. Rather, I would be much more fearful of missing it because nothing can satisfy us more than fully accomplishing God's purpose in our lives. And nothing can draw us deeper into intimacy with him than hearing his voice – i.e. prophecy.

When God promises to give us the Spirit if we persistently ask him because we know it is a good thing, he will surely not deny us the greatest gift that comes with it that will enrich our lives more than anything else – the gift of prophecy. In fact with baptism all the gift of the Spirit are then there for the asking/seeking, and all of that can launch us into a real spiritual adventure.

After many years of ministering in healing, along with the other gifts in various measures,

God asked me what it is I really want. That led me to really search my heart because I knew God had hidden the true answer to that down there – i.e. *God gives us the desires of our heart.* In the end the answer I came back with was – more than anything I want prophecy. Not just to enrich myself, but to enrich others.

The thing is, with physical healing all of us will still die someday. Our physical bodies will die or be raptured and changed. But prophecy is something that can build God's people up eternally, which is why I believe it is the greater gift, and the greatest privilege.

I need to move on now, but this is a key purpose of this book – to persuade you not to miss this great gift, and to get into the battle with the rest of us – a battle we certainly can't lose. Believe me, we need you. God needs you. All it takes is to want it; to ask and seek for it; and to surrender yourself to God for it. You can't do any more than that, but once you make that firm decision it will be God's pleasure to give it to you, I assure you.

25. Progressive Prophecy

All of us are progressing spiritually. Fortunately Jesus is the author of that. Not only the author, as the Bible says, but also the finisher. He is the master craftsman and he knows how to finish what he started according to his original design.

This means we spiritually advance in all things. This includes in all our knowing/believing and understanding, and in wisdom. That doesn't preclude the fact that we may have negative seasons – perhaps where we lose our *first love* like the *Ephesians*, or become *lukewarm* like the *Laodiceans*. But God will always act to recover us when we let things slip.

This means we will also advance in the gifts God has given, including the gift of prophecy.

This book is partly autobiographical, as I explained at the beginning, to give you an idea and example of how such growth may occur, having walked this path for nearly five decades.

Early in my walk with the Lord, after I received the baptism of the Spirit, I began to move in prophecy.

In those days I was a more exclusively cerebral person, and most of my prophetic activity was expressed with just words and scripture. I then realised others were getting more visions and images, so I asked God to give me that. The result was almost immediate. I then found myself having both visions and words, always linked together in some way. So God didn't take away what I already had, but he led me forward and added something greater.

The effect of that was like going from a monochrome world, to a world of full colour. From there I never looked back.

Sometimes people don't realise just how ready God is to give these gifts, and increase them, because they are profoundly good for us personally, and for the advancement of his Kingdom.

God regularly speaks to me through the scriptures, but so many times I have been taught by him through prophetic revelations, often linked to the scriptures in some way.

Let me give you another example, and this one was life defining.

When reading the scriptures I was somehow impacted by Jesus saying to Peter – *I will give you the keys of the Kingdom*, as if God was saying it to me. Then as I was meeting with my church, prophetic people were coming to me saying – *God is going to give you the keys of the Kingdom*.

At that time I was working in mining and as part of my training I was sent to visit a company in Scotland that made coalface cutting machines. This company made their own castings and they took me to the foundry to show me the process. Then, as we finished, someone walked by holding a piece of metal that had just been cast. It was a

large gold-coloured key, made of brass or some gold coloured alloy. That got my attention. They then said to me we have a souvenir for your visit, and they sawed the key off from the ingot and gave it to me, leaving me to polish it up.

I knew this key had meaning, so it set me on a quest to find out what it was. In the end I discovered the meaning was this – *All things come by grace through faith*. Not just salvation, but everything, and this includes the baptism of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit.

This concept took me some time to absorb, but it was life changing, and it was the thing that led me out of the legalistic ideas I had inherited.

What I was shown is that this principle is – *'The master key; the key to the key cupboard.'* Through it we open and access everything else God has for us. I still have the metal key and it frequently reminds me of this truth.

My point in sharing this is not just to share

the lesson, but also to give an example of how God used a combination of prophecy, signs, and scripture to move me forward. This is how it is meant to be, and it is a really adventurous life when all of this can happen.

I mentioned earlier how God led me to even learn to think differently. He moved me on from being primarily a rational thinker, to learning to be an intuitive thinker, which is how prophetic revelations come. That didn't mean the rational was discarded, but it ceased to be my primary lead.

Without saying much more about this, it also led me to understand why Wisdom and Understanding in the scriptures are represented as female, given that in general this is a way of thinking that the females of our species are more inclined towards than men.

Think about this – *Why did Joel prophesy that old men will dream dreams, while young men see visions.* That is because our prophetic experience

should be progressive. After all, as we age we are being prepared for a full revelation of the spiritual world and heaven.

Sometimes I feel like our experience in this world is like a child in the womb who can increasingly hear the sounds of the world it is soon to be launched into. That certainly agrees with scripture – that the creation is standing on tiptoe, waiting to see the sons of God revealed through birthing. *Maranatha!*

The reality is, even with the progression, no two gifts are alike. They are tailored and unique to each individual. There are similarities for sure, but like our faces, our gifts and experiences all differ.

Some even experience what we called a 'Seer' gift, where they see things in the spiritual realm remarkably clearly. Let's take a closer look at that next.

26. The Seer's Gift

A seer is someone who sees. For sure I see visions that work though God utilising my facility of imagination or dreams, as we all have. But the seer seems to go well beyond that.

In fact I have a daughter who has the gift of a seer, which she seems to have had from birth.

I have three daughters, but she was a little different in some ways. That became clear when as a young girl when we would play together she proved to be extremely ticklish. Ok, we are all ticklish to some degree, but not like that. It became clear she was different when we could simply move our fingers in the air like we were tickling her, and she would fall on the floor and roll over and over begging us to stop. And all that without even touching her. It seemed her mind was doing the rest, which was really amusing as a party trick when we had guests.

Later it became clear she was seeing into

the spiritual realm with a clarity the rest of us didn't have. For a time that was a problem because the enemy used it to attack her, and for a while it caused some devastation. However, when she began to understand her authority in Christ she soon silenced those attacking forces and put them to flight. That has put her in a position for her gift to be used by the Lord, and I know he will open greater and greater ways for it as he chooses.

I know of at least one who has a seer's gift for whom it became too much, so they begged the Lord to take it away, which he did. However, after a while they began begging the Lord to give it back because they realised it was part of who they are and they realised they really didn't want to change – so after a while, when they learned to value it better, he returned it.

Can anyone progress into a seer's gift?

I know a seer I respect who says not. They say it is strictly a gift from birth. But though I don't have

it, I have a prophetic awareness that this is not entirely true. What I do know is never to put God in a box, so be careful when you use the word *never*.

Actually I believe God can give it, but there is something even more special for those that discover and receive it rather than being born with it. God has a way of levelling the playing field like that, so I wouldn't rule it out.

One thing I learned when I asked God about the seer's gift is that it in no way defines rank. God gives gifts to serve so by it we become more of a servant, as with all gifts.

What God showed me about it is that this gift is not necessarily the greatest blessing, and I take that from what Jesus said to Thomas who demanded to see before he believed, and Jesus said to him – *More blessed are those that do not see and yet believe.*

Somehow not seeing, as a seer does, is a

greater blessing, because what it can mean is a greater development of faith, and faith is true riches.

God once drew a parallel for me between faith, and gold, as the scriptures do sometimes. Peter also says to us – *though you haven't seen him, you love him*, knowing that for him he had seen and experienced Jesus in a way that many haven't.

In his letter he even remarked on his experience of the transfiguration, which clearly impacted him in a huge way. Yet in not seeing somehow God uses that to bring us into an even greater blessing.

My point with this is that we have to thank God for every person and every gift he has given us. But at the same time realise whatever we have it is according to God's perfect plan for us, though we should always be ready for more.

27. World Events

Prophetic gifting often seems to have its assigned domain/s. With this I am talking about ministry gifting more than personal revelation.

At times that domain can reach a national or global domain level, where God is speaking into the vision and experience of nations, or even the world.

Without giving details, I have noted an occasion when a seer I know, who is always incredibly accurate, made a big blunder when they began prophesying into national or world events.

When asking God about that I believe I was shown they had tried to step out of their assigned domain, which was to minister to individuals and to bring them healing and deliverance.

We all make blunders sometimes, as the *Apostle Peter* did, otherwise we never learn, and it

does have the good effect of keeping us humble.

However, there are some for whom God makes national or world events at least part of their domain, and they are commissioned by him to speak prophetically into it.

I know this because it has been part of my experience on an increasing level over the years.

I shared how I prophetically foresaw healing happening in Nottingham market square during the 1990's, and how that came to pass in the following decade. At the same time I also had a vision of similar things happening in Trafalgar Square in London.

In 2012 that led me to visit Trafalgar Square as I came to the end of the Olympic event, as I shared earlier. God sent me there to decree and declare the things I had seen in vision over that place. This was when I had just finished the 30-day worship burn, and by it I was prepared and equipped to do this prophetic act of authority.

As I went to do this I felt immense demonic resistance in the form of extreme apathy from the people towards the Christian message, but I also felt empowered with something far greater, so I pushed back against it and made the declarations, as the Spirit led me.

Not too long after that I heard of unprecedented evangelistic events commencing in Trafalgar Square, where healing was part of the event.

Prayer and declaration always precedes these moves of God because God has given us authority over the Earth and he requires us to use it, so he always raises the essential ministries of prayer and intercession to precede, accompany, and cover all he does.

I visited some of these events in the Square, but it was much greater than just me. There were many people involved. I also saw the miracles and had a part in it, as I had seen

prophetically, but I am just one part of the body and there are many needed to come together for fulfilment of God's plans at this level.

Shortly after the Olympics and my prayer at Trafalgar, I returned to my church 200 miles away in Devon. This is a church with many spiritually sensitive people. When I walked in, there was an amazed reaction. Not just to greet me and welcome me back, but to ask what had happened to me, and they described how they could see I was now spiritually armed to the teeth in a way they had never seen with me before. And I can tell you, that is exactly the way it felt to me.

What a spiritual adventure that was, and as I mentioned before, I know through prophecy there is still more and greater of that to come in that city.

The vision of Trafalgar Square came to me in the prayer meetings I was running in the 1990's. That led me to keep my eye on anything happening in the Square over the years before I was sent there

during the Olympics.

In about 2003 there was a prayer event there calling intercessors together to pray, particularly about financial corruption in London and around the world Banks, both present and historical, and these intercessors went through a prophetic act of scattering coins in the Square for the poor, and repenting of the sins of our nation over the past centuries where those nations were exploited and mistreated.

Prophecies were released about God making corrections and bringing discipline to our nation and others over these matters.

The leader of that event then gave a specific prophecy that these prayers would be fulfilled between 5 and 10 years from this meeting.

It was God that led me to hear that and later to obtain the transcript. I had a strong resonance with the prophecy and from it I knew the financial banking crash of 2008 was coming 5 years later. I

also knew when the recession that followed it would end a further 5 years on, as the prophecy had stated.

At times God led me to speak of these times to various people before it happened, so this was my first excursion into prophetically knowing and speaking about national and world events.

One thing to be aware of with prophecy is, we don't often know the timing of the fulfilment. God often uses that uncertainty to keep us watchful and ready, but sometimes he does give us a specific timing, as he did in this case.

Later in 2010 I remember hearing in the news that the world population was just reaching 7 billion, so I asked the Lord if this had any significance, given the significance of the number 7 in the Bible. The answer I got back was – '*No, however, when the world population reaches 7,777,777,777 (i.e. 10x7's) then that number would be significant*'.

I didn't know exactly what that significance was, just that there was something in God's plan for the world at that time. I was simply told – *There would be a 'watershed' moment that would bring a 'sea change' in world affairs.* And later I went on to explain those terms in a book I was led to write about it – prophesying that it would mark the beginning of a birthing season where end-time birthing contractions begin for the world.

As the geek I am, I calculated when that population number would be reached and estimated it to be around the year 2020 or 2021.

Then in 2018 I was led to write a prophetic book entitled – *The Original Church to Come.* This book was an expansion of things I had written before about the church, as the Spirit of God led me to do it, but not yet as a book.

It is about the kind of revolution we can expect to see in churches in coming years that will bring back much that has been lost from the early church. I still regard the latest version of that book

to be a draft, and not the final thing, but there are things in it that are already fulfilled, such as the advancement of technology and how it has affected the church and the spread of the gospel and the Kingdom.

As I completed this book on church, I then asked God how he would authenticate it. In response I was then led to write another prophetic book called – *The 2020 Vision of the End Times* about the 10x7's number I mentioned. This book was completed and released in June 2019, and it was about the events we could expect to see in 2020, the following year.

At this time I didn't know exactly what would happen, except that it would be traumatic for the world and that it would mark the beginning of a new season – a birthing season.

Of course what happened was the Covid-19 pandemic where even churches were shut down around the world.

Those that laughed or sneered at my message before it happened came to laugh no longer – though some cynical types did still carry on sneering. But it was God that had commissioned the book and got me to write it just before the world population reached that critical 10×7 's number.

Some objected that this number does not appear in the Bible – the *Logos*. My answer is, of course it doesn't; this was a *Rhema* word meant only for our time.

To say it is '*unbiblical*' is to show some ignorance of how God works, and of what is written in the Bible. There we find many instances of these kind of words released at the right time, both in the Old and New Testament. Words from Joseph, Daniel, and Isaiah in the Old Testament that applied specifically for the time they were given. And in the New Testament we have similar prophetic revelations recorded in the Book of Acts, such as the word a prophet named *Agabus* gave about an imminent famine in their time.

These words have been fulfilled, so why are they recorded and given to us in the scriptures? Only to tell us that these kinds of words are normal for the church and we should expect them.

The 2020 book gave some revelation of what we could expect in the coming decade, and in decades beyond. For the 2020's that prediction in a nutshell was – *trauma in the world while the church experiences rest*. So far in this decade we have had an unprecedented pandemic with global lockdown, followed by the constant imminent threat of WW3, which at the time of writing is not finished yet.

This prediction of 'rest' for the church in this decade is not actually my own, but from another prophet who proved remarkably accurate in his time and went on to make his ultimate prophecy before he left, covering every decade for 100 years from the 1950's to the 2050's. I resonated with it so I included it in the book, as I was led to do.

Some object that we don't know when the end will come so how can such a prophecy be valid as Christ may come before that. To this my answer is – *Yes, God can cut things short in this world at any time, as the Bible says he will, and this is a proviso on all such prophecy.* That is a given, and an overriding principle we must accept when it comes to prophecies that foretell. However, to say there cannot be any foretelling prophecy is clearly an error that is easily repudiated by the Bible.

When people object that the 10x7's number is not in the Bible and is therefore wrong, I already said it is a *Rhema* word – a word for the moment.

That number was given to me only 10 years before the events, and I was only led by the Spirit to write about it within a year of it happening, which is how God wanted it to be.

I was led to release it in both Book form, as cheap as possible, and on the internet free of charge for all to read.

It was clearly not a word that could be included in the Bible 2000 years ago as it would clearly then defeat the purpose of God in keeping us, and Satan, guessing about the time of the end of the age and what to expect.

There are also Bible precedents for God using people numbers as a timer to mark end-time events. We are told the remnant of Israel will not be enlightened to Christ as their long awaited messiah and saved before the '*full number*' of gentiles have come in. We are also told the end of the age, and rapture, will not come until the number of martyrs is complete. With both of these God is setting numerical markers on when things will happen, even if we don't know when those markers are reached.

God led me to write the 2020 book for a clear purpose.

For one thing, he never does anything before revealing it first to his prophets. That is a principle.

Secondly, it was given to provide understanding of the times we live in to underpin the *rest* that the Spirit of God has released into the church for the 2020's decade, despite the troubles.

Along with the main 10x7's population number in the book, I was also led to include some revelations I had of the end times and understandings of the *Book of Revelation* that I received very early in my Christian life. These revelations had a profound effect of making me '*look up*' as Jesus told us to, in hopeful anticipation of his coming. That, and the experience I had of heaven that I wrote about earlier.

As I mentioned earlier, the book also reiterates a prophecy by another prophet of what will happen in the coming decades, and what God and the church will major on in each decade, even

though the traumas of the birthing season will continue. These things are profoundly positive for the church, and not to be missed, which makes me happy that God has shown me I will have long life so I will see these things fulfilled.

Why did God choose me to write it? – Some who know me ask. My first answer is – *Why not?* That's up to him who he chooses, and he doesn't need a high flyer, just someone who will be obedient.

The same was true of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was an ordinary young Jewish girl that God chose to bring the fulfilment of the prophecy of a virgin birth from more than seven centuries earlier.

There is always big push-back from some with the kind of message God gave me for 2020 – largely I think because some are not ready and are scared by it. Some are so transfixed with this world they simply don't want it. But they are the type of person that definitely needs this message because they need to begin to '*look up*' as Jesus

said, and be looking for better. It is actually designed to be a blessing to them, even if they don't realise it.

What I do feel is that God has prepared me over the years to take the kind of flack and grief that comes from this kind of push-back, and from the spiritual warfare that surrounds it as the enemy tries to shut it down.

Only I know the many ways it has been challenged since I released it. God's prophet has to be ready to be maligned, abused, and lied about as the mud begins to fly.

We find ourselves at the end of the procession and Satan never stops looking for volunteers he can use for his dirty work. Taking that abuse is all part of the job.

God said to Ezekiel he would make his forehead like flint, as a prophet to the people. Not everyone is able or willing to carry that, but God does prepare some of us for it.

In many ways, being the herald of this message was a difficult thing because I seemed to be standing alone unsupported in it.

Normally you would expect other prophetic voice to be confirming it with their own prophecies, whereas I found that many had nearly the opposite message of a year of prosperity in 2020.

I think the truth is messages of trouble are not popular, whereas messages of prosperity are. For anyone concerned about the effect on their followers, and ultimately their revenue stream, they would be reluctant to represent it.

Perhaps I was the right person because I really didn't care about those things, and I would release it for little or no financial profit.

One confirmation that did come to me later, after the troubles of 2020 had begun, was that God highlighted to me my birthdate – 24/7/60. This

revelation came as I was about to turn age 60 in 2020. What God showed me is that my birthdate is actually all time related numbers – 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week, and 60 minutes in an hour and seconds in a minute. And now here I was turning 60 when I was prompted to give this prophecy that is all about God's times and seasons.

The remarkable thing about this is – Here I was having been around for 60 years, having seen and written that date many times, and its significance had never once occurred to me. I believe God was showing me he had given me a specific commission to speak into this key time for the Earth – as the commencement of the birthing season, and my birthdate was serving as a confirmation of it.

If all of this together doesn't authenticate the prophetic gift then I don't know what does. But in all honesty I do have to admit to some blunders with prophecy, as sometimes happens, so let's

also take a closer look at that and how it can happen.

28. Blunders

I find prophetic blunders come mainly through either desperation, rationalism, or pride – and rationalism is also often rooted in pride.

Receiving prophecy and hearing God accurately requires faith to trust God whatever happens, almost in an emotionally detached kind of way.

If our circumstances begin to overwhelm us so we lose our peace and become desperate for a solution, that's when we can make mistakes. We become too emotionally involved to see and think clearly, so we begin grasping at straws and make mistakes as we look for hope and comfort.

Pride is the other common problem that leads to errors. The classic example is when Jesus said to the disciples – *Who do you say I am?* And Peter responded with – *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.* To which Jesus then said – *Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven.* Peter could easily have taken that as a commendation for hearing God correctly. However,

quick on the heels of that, when Jesus informed them he would die on a cross, Peter tried to dissuade him. After Peter's success, somehow he now thought he was in a position to instruct the Lord. You know – the one who he just said was the Christ, the Son of the living God. And now we find he is listening to Satan and speaking for him.

Yes, we know pride comes before a fall, and Peter certainly fell for that one, and it was not the only time he did it. But he's not alone. Most of us that have charted a course into the prophetic life have had similar moments. It is all part of the learning curve.

As someone said – *He who never makes a mistake never makes anything.*

If we stoned New Testament prophets every time they made a mistake, there wouldn't be any prophets. That would suit some, I'm sure, but not the Holy Spirit I assure you.

The truth is we are taught to test all things, including prophecy, precisely because mistakes can

be made. If we work together on it, that becomes less likely, but we still have to guard against it without stepping into a place where we begin to '*despise prophecy*'. Then, if we do that, the losses will be greater than even when a false prophecy gets through because prophecy is a valuable gift.

For myself there were times, when I was working in the megachurch, bringing prophecy to individuals, when as I was delivering a prophecy I realised I had missed the mark and had to roll back and apologise.

When you've done that a few times it makes you more careful and diligent not to do it again because you do always sense a tinge of grief of the Holy Spirit, as you do with any misstep you make.

Mostly false prophecy just doesn't resonate with the hearer as the Holy Spirit is the one to affirm it, and it simply drops away. But we still have to be careful as it can sometimes have a detrimental effect. Jesus didn't call us sheep for no reason. Of course he is the good shepherd and is watching to see we don't stray, but we still have to be careful we

don't get led away by the wrong voice as it will cause trouble.

My biggest blunder came when I was too emotionally involved, and too confident in myself after my recent success with the 2020 book.

It came when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, when several things happened with me. First, I was furious with Putin for his arrogance, so I got emotionally involved. Secondly, a huge burden of intercession came on me that could only be lifted by prayer. That burden really wasn't me, but it was something God put on me, as he did with many others, I know.

I began to get assurances from the Spirit that the attack on Kyiv would fail, even though it looked dead certain to succeed very quickly, and I released a prophecy online to say it would fail. I prophetically saw other things that I also released – such as Putin as a modern day Pharaoh that would be humbled like the Pharaoh in the time of Moses. I saw Ukraine forcefully pushing Russia out of their land with all their equipment destroyed. And I saw that by the

end of this war Russia would be humbled and will come to be seen as no more than just another nation, so their claim to be a superpower that they are so proud of will be gone.

Though the conflict is still ongoing, some of this has come to pass for sure, and some of it looks increasingly likely to happen. However my blunder came when I incorrectly tried to put a timeline on the war, as I had for the events of 2020. That was because I was too emotionally involved and refusing to accept it would go on for very long.

What led me to the wrong conclusion was actually a rationalisation that I allowed to override the Spirit. Because I had been led by the Spirit to calculate when the 10×7 's world population number would be reached, I presumed a similar thing was going on in this case with the war. What struck me was this invasion was happening close to the 77th anniversary of VE day in 1945 – Victory in Europe, which the Russians always celebrate, so I had the idea the 7's were again in play.

My guess now in hindsight is that Putin was also

deliberately working to this timeline which is why he invaded when he did, hoping to complete the occupation of Ukraine in time for the annual victory parade celebration on 8 May, and thereby leave himself a legacy.

My prophetic misstep was to presume it would be over in 7 months from the anniversary, but that was because I was unwilling to contemplate it would take longer. I really didn't have the word of the Spirit on that, and it was something I had to realise slowly as the time passed and I had to admit I was wrong and apologise about it.

I find when a genuine prophetic word has a timeline it gets stronger as time passes, even if there is no sign of fulfilment. However, for a mistaken word it goes the other way.

When I released the *10x7*'s word for 2020, I was posting the increasing population count frequently online, and with each post it became more certain for me. When faith rises like that, even before fulfilment, it is strong evidence it is correct because faith comes from hearing God.

As I went to the Lord about the mistake I made later, he said not to worry about it – he had it covered, as always. But he also said to me I wouldn't fully understand my mistake before the war ends. That, of course, I don't understand yet, but it had the effect of humbling me and made me commit myself to remain in step with his Holy Spirit in future.

As and when I learn more, I expect I will release it, maybe in the epilogue of a later version of this book, if the Spirit leads me to do it.

Will that be my last blunder?

I doubt it. But I will endeavour to make it so none-the-less.

When it comes to my experience of others, there have been many times I had no resonance with a prophetic word and simply had to disregard it.

There is a hollowness and lack of weight to a word that has another source than God. Or if it has a demonic origin it can also have a bad feel or taste

to it.

At times we come across ministries that are prophetic but present a real challenge. One in particular I remember was a huge influence on a church I attended. He had the gift of a *seer* for sure, but the problem I found with him was he moved so fast, and said so many radical things, I really didn't feel I had time to test it all.

This felt a bit dangerous, so I was on my guard, not wanting to be sucked into anything that didn't 'pass the bar.'

When I looked around the room it seemed most were taking in all he said, wholesale, and when that happens there is always that element of group pressure to conform, but I am the kind of person that tends to push back on that kind of thing and try not to be influenced by it.

Sometimes an off-the-cuff comment from this person could be quite impacting and it really needed time for consideration. There were many of them, but one in particular I remember came when

this person said – *Jesus was rich, even as rich as a modern day billionaire*. And they made it clear they were speaking about his earthly wealth.

One of the worrying things about this person was not that he was challenging some of our traditional beliefs and understandings, but that he seemed to be challenging almost everything. This was just one example.

Later in the conference there was set to be a Q&A session where we got a chance to ask this person questions. All credit to him for allowing that because many wouldn't, I know. But I felt I had a responsibility to go to God and ask him whether he wanted me to ask a question or say anything. It was then that God highlighted that statement about Jesus being rich, and God led me to ask him what his source was on that.

You see, everything this person said was presented in a way that implied he always had the inside track with God on the things he was saying.

My question was – *Where did you get this*

information about Jesus being rich? Was it a revelation from God, or is it from your understanding of the scripture?

When I asked him the question, what it did for me was reveal something of the man and his flaws, which I found quite disappointing, but something I think God wanted me and others to see.

I could see he didn't want to lose that '*prophet of God*' credibility he had built up, so he didn't want to say this was just his personal interpretation of scripture, and he was unwilling to say outright that this was a revelation from God to him directly.

He alluded to the fact that in scripture Jesus had a valuable garment, and that was all he was offering from the scriptures to back his message, but he still wasn't ready to say whether this was the main source of his revelation.

The real problem for him here was – if he came to admit he was wrong about something, then everything he had been saying would come under scrutiny, and I don't think he was willing for that

having had such a free run for a long while.

What I needed to see from this man was some honesty, humility, and transparency that would help build trust. But it wasn't there.

Later I got my own assessment of this man's ministry from God through a prophetic image. I saw a large, nutritious lump of meat dangling on a fishing line, and the meat was full of hooks.

There was no question there was nutritious meat there, but there were also traps. In the end I had to move on because I felt it was just too much hard work getting at the meat while continually trying to test it and avoid the hooks.

This is the kind of challenge we all have as believers. What it means is we all need our own prophetic walk with God so we can effectively test everything, as we should. Without that, prophecy can become a problem, which I think is why many avoid it altogether.

Regarding this question of Jesus being rich, I

don't want to discuss it too much here, but I think God highlighted it to me as something to focus on that was definitely wrong teaching. I have a long list of reasons from scripture as to why this is wrong, so it needed to be challenged, but I will leave you to investigate that for yourself if you need to, or contact me if you want to discuss it.

Sometime later I saw this same person ministering online and he was reacting to others that had challenged his message, perhaps not as respectfully as I tried to do. He was essentially threatening them with death for defying the word of his prophet. This showed me clearly he was going off the rails at that time.

There was a time in the past I had a similar thing happen when I and a number of elders from a church wanted to discuss some issues with the leader. This leader then related how some elders from another church had challenged a leader, and all of them died. Fortunately for me God had prophetically prepared me for this meeting by giving me a scripture while on my way there – *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear,*

but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (Rom 8:15)

In this case God used this personal prophetic word from scripture to protect me from fear, threats, and manipulation that were not from him, which again is an example of what prophetic insight can do to protect us.

There is no doubt that any of us can go wrong – sometimes badly, and such things need to be challenged. But all of us are a '*work in progress*' and prone to failure, but that doesn't mean we cease to be a child of God who is used by him and who is subject to his discipline and correction.

It is always such flawed people that minister anything to us, and God can also use us too despite our flaws, so we need to always try to align ourselves with the heart of God towards each other, and not be lured into rejection of those God still loves and accepts

Prophecy is always better when it is corporately tested. Then we can be more confident it is accurate.

Where we find we differ on our view of anything, the right path is to take it before God with prayer and fasting, and the scriptures then promises that God will make it clear to us.

As my final word on this topic of blunders, let me bring up something Jesus said to those who accused him of casting out demons by Beelzebub. He said – *if I cast them out by Beelzebub, then by whom do you cast them out?*

Some have interpreted this to believe the Pharisees also cast out demons, but with that they are completely missing the point. What Jesus was really highlighting was that they **didn't** cast them out, which is why he went on to say – *if a kingdom is divided against itself it will fall.* Meaning they didn't challenge evil because they too belong to that same kingdom.

In the same way I say to those that criticise prophecy and the use of the other gifts – *Where are your true prophecies? When do you cast our demons? When do you minister healing?* Because according to your own Bible the Kingdom of God is not a matter

or words but of power (1 Cor 4:20).

Whilst it is essential to hold people to account for what they do or say, it is also appropriate and biblical to hold people account for what they don't do or say. If you are yourself a true prophet you will be better qualified to make a judgement, but as any true prophet will tell you, we all make a mistakes sometimes as that is the only way we really learn. What matters most is not that a mistake was made, but how we deal with it, and in that we need to be helping, not crucifying.

Later I will share some input I received involving prophetic insights that helped me immensely, and it came to me from the very same source of this *seer* guy I mentioned, who also made some blunders, just to emphasise the point I am making.

29. Paint the Blood

I shared about the person who had a seer's gift, but about whom I had my reservations on some of their ideas.

While there were problems with this person, there were also some things he brought that were of great value. So to bring this all back to a positive note, I want to share one of those things that had quite an impact on me, and that may also benefit you in a similar way. Something that God confirmed to me with a strong sign.

This guy recommended something that we all should do at some stage in our life. He instructed us to go through a prophetic act to deal with all the traumatic memories we had picked up over our lives. Memories that ranged from deep trauma, to things that were just there as a niggling hurt whenever they came to mind.

His instruction was to prophetically take a bowl or bucket of the blood of Christ, and a paintbrush, and systematically trawl through all the years of our

lives, even starting at birth, and ask God to bring up any memories in each year that are bothering us in any way. Then as these things come up we were to prophetically paint them out red with the blood of Christ.

The effect of this would not be to erase it from our memory, but simply to take all the pain and hurt out of it so it no longer bothered us. It would be healed over like a scar and just become another memory of the past.

When I did this for myself I remember coming to my fifth year, which was my first year at school. There I had a distant memory that came up of a friend I made in that year by the name of Andrew. Then one day he simply disappeared and no longer came to my school.

I was not old enough to make any meaningful inquiry about him and get an explanation of why he was no longer there. But I felt the pain of this loss because I had bonded with him as a friend, and I really liked him. He was a little guy, full of energy and passion, and always running to me to include

me in whatever he was up to in the class or the playground. His loss definitely hurt me, but I just absorbed it and got on with life.

As this memory came up God gave me more details about it, and I then painted out the pain of it as a prophetic act of the mind, as instructed, before moving on to the next thing.

The remarkable thing was, within weeks this guy showed up in my life again as my taxi driver. I was more than 250 miles from the village and school where I grew up, and where I met him. When he heard my accent he knew it was not local and asked where I was from. We quickly narrowed it down to the village of 5000 people where we both first started, and the school we shared in our first year. When he said he was from there I knew straightaway this was Andrew and he was the friend I had lost. This was 50 years on as we were both now age 55.

Recently God reminded me I hadn't finished going through the years, painting out my pains and traumas, so I am still carrying some of the hurts I picked up. This is a clear hint from the Lord that I

must complete it.

I think my mistake was to try to cover all my years too quickly as bringing up memories like that is never too easy. I should have spread it out more and taken my time, as a once in a lifetime exercise. Then I think I would have got through it and finished it.

This meeting with this childhood friend was one of those kind of things God does when he really wants to get a message through to us – sometimes because we are not really listening. And again it is a huge validation of the purpose and power of prophecy to help us in our journey through life.

As believers we are led by the Spirit and by the scriptures to go through these prophetic acts sometimes. Some of them on a regular basis. For example we are led to always count ourselves dead to the old nature, and alive to the new. We are to practice the presence of Jesus and affirm that he is always with us. And we are to put on the armour of God and wear it by faith, knowing and believing it has been provided for us.

This act of painting out hurts and traumas by the blood of Christ is a similar thing, even if not expressed in the scriptures in exactly those terms. The truth is, through prophecy the Spirit can give us creative ideas and leadings like this to teach us, or to show us something important.

30. Chambers of the Heart

Another prophetic teaching that had an impact on me has become known as – *The Four Chambers of the Heart*.

These 'chambers', as someone called them, are four places it has been found Christians may go to in prophetic visions.

Of course, there are many more, but these were claimed to be a common experience that seemed to be shared by more than just a few believers.

These chambers are:

- The garden
- The soaking room
- The dance floor
- The bridal chamber

What struck me about this teaching is that I had experienced three of the four in some measure

before I ever heard the teaching, and I was fascinated that so many believers seem to have had similar prophetic experiences.

The garden is simply a place where we go to hang out with the Lord, where we can relax, and where he can show us something or speak to us about something, if he wants to.

For me I have done this at various times, usually sensing God prompting me to go there, though sometimes through me asking to go there with the Lord for some reason of my own.

In the garden the Lord has led me to uproot thorn bushes and poisonous or stinging plants; cultivate ground; plant things; climb trees; splash or swim in water; and other things that have had meaning and have impacted me in some way.

Those things have translated into finding healing for hurts, forgiving, releasing, overcoming generational curses, enjoying the Lord, and other such things. All done through vision, but genuine

spiritual realities none-the-less.

The soaking room has been time spent soaking in the presence of God, receiving healing, or just enjoying God sometimes. For me, much of my soaking time was experienced lying flat on the floor, which sometimes feels necessary. But a comfortable place is often a good choice.

The dance floor is literally dancing with the Lord, which is a highly therapeutic thing to do when it is Spirit led.

I have not only done this myself, but seen significant healing come to very broken people through it. It allows us to bring our whole body into the worship experience.

Generally I find we have to lose our self-consciousness to get the benefit of dance, then our worship shifts from horizontal, to vertical. But the same is actually true of all forms of worship.

The bridal chamber is a place of deep intimacy

with the Lord where he reveal himself to us in ways that bring us very close to him.

The first three of these *chambers* I could claim to have experienced already in some measure. The last one is still to come for me, except for this...

When I joined the church where I had a lot of this experience of the chambers, I was in deep pain from the break up on a relationship that I began at school, which lasted for 36 years, including 32 years of marriage.

But I had been reckless and foolish before I came to Christ, and this was my will, not God's. That led to much pain and heartache over the years, which was a significant part of the pressure I was under when God gave me a glimpse of heaven, at a time when life didn't seem worth living.

Then after the children grew up and the break-up came, I was in severe emotional pain that lasted for four years, but it was most difficult

in the first year. My problem was, after being with this person since we were both age 15, I really didn't have much vision for any other kind of life.

For that whole year I felt God draw very close, and all he would say to me over and over was – *I love you. I love you. I love you.* And each time I heard that it would cause what I would describe as a healing cramp deep in my stomach that would continually come and go, even making me physically crunch my stomach as it happened. Later I realised I was being healed of this trauma to the point where I could live life again.

During this experience, when I realised I was getting to the end of this healing season, I began to ask God if he had anything else to say to me besides that, which clearly showed I was on the mend and getting ready to move on.

This was an intimate time with God, for sure. Afterwards, when I began to really recover, I went through another season where I didn't feel the need to cling to God so much, and then

another that I would describe as a season of disappointment over my failures. These were all challenging in their own way, but God was there with me throughout.

Often with the call to the garden, I found God was wanting to work on something. But I once went there at his suggestion and when I asked him what it was for, he simply said he just wanted to hang out with me for a while.

Some people will ask where this is in the Bible, but to me that is a redundant question. God didn't make the Bible to be a straight-jacket for all creativity. He promised visions and dreams, and we can expect many of these to be unique. The nearest I can offer is perhaps the *Psalms*, or the *Song of Songs*, but the prophetic is not constrained like that. All that matters is that in essence it aligns with the scriptures.

This idea that with the *chambers* we can have such some similar experiences, is a fascinating one to me. But one I can vouch for having experienced

some of it as part of my prophetic adventure, even before I heard of such a thing.

31. What Comes Next?

I was led to write this book in January 2026.

Its purpose was not intended to bring more prophecy about the state of the world, as previous books of mine were, but simply to recount my personal lifelong prophetic experience to enlighten and inspire others on what is possible, and what an adventure it can be.

As I said before, when I made a prophetic blunder on the timescale of the *Russia-Ukraine* war, I believe God said to me I would only understand my mistake when this war ends. I therefore refrained from saying any more about world affairs and I was determined to wait for that time.

However, in view of the way this world is changing at this moment, I do feel led to offer one or two insights, which you will have to weigh carefully for yourself.

The prophetic book I released in 2019 about what was coming the following year in 2020, stated that

this was the beginning of the birthing season for the church. And a birthing means there will be painful contractions. The message to us was that this is the kind of thing we must expect from now on.

As most of us know, contractions come and go during birthing, usually with gradually increasing intensity. But there are also rest periods between the contractions which bring some relief, and they help us prepare for the next, or even for the big push that must come at the end.

Right now we are seeing the fall of some nations that have caused big trouble in the world.

I received a vision on this at the beginning of January 2026 when some of this was beginning to kick off. What I saw was a *ski jumper* at the top of a high ski jump, ready to go and full of enthusiasm as they were preparing to jump and fly. I also sensed the thrill and anticipation of the watching crowd that were hoping and praying the ski jumper would do well.

I believe what God was showing me was that

these present traumas in the world would see significant breakthrough by the time of the coming *Winter Olympics* in February 2026, just one month away, and that at this time the whole world would be rejoicing over world events as many things will be changed for the better.

I also had a word for 2026 that this would be a year of '*glorious revolution*.'

That is a term that was used for a bloodless revolution in England in 1688 when the Dutch King *William of Orange* came over from the Netherlands to take the English throne and finally consolidate England as a protestant nation.

If these prophetic words are accurate, we can expect 2026 to be a great and memorable year, even though we are still in the middle of the birthing season. For now the birthing contractions have stopped and the world can take a breather before they continue.

In terms of the *Russia-Ukraine* war, as I have been writing this book I believe I did hear something

prophetic that I want to add; something that is a little unusual. I simply heard the phase – *Putin is a 'Bimbo'*. However, I don't believe this is intended as an insult, but simply as a truth that has more than a little meaning to it.

First of all this word '*Bimbo*' is a strange one because it is normally only used in my culture as a derogatory term for a woman. However, when I looked it up I discovered it was originally used in the *United States* as early as 1919 for an unintelligent and brutish man.

I think this is an accurate description of what Putin really is, though I believe he is proud, believing himself to be a master strategist, but he will be brought down low and come to be seen as *history's greatest 'Bimbo'*.

I also believe the modern use of this word is relevant in that the masculine masquerade Putin has tried to present to the Russians and the world will be completely overturned, so he will even come to be seen as a *Bimbo* in the modern sense of the word, and maybe even as a coward.

I have no doubt Putin started this war partly because of his hatred for *President Zelensky* – the president of *Ukraine*, who he saw as both a rival, and someone of whom he was insanely jealous because of his popularity in his country.

However, this too will be used to humble Putin. Recently I saw President Zelensky in an image that was captioned – *Zelensky the Great*, a title that I believe Putin and his ego even desired for himself to elevate his name in history to be an equal with *Peter the Great* who established much of Russia as a country. From this I believe President *Zelensky* will become a world statesman, as even now he is showing signs of becoming.

An important thing to understand about all the events taking place in the world at this time is that God is preparing the world for a huge last-days harvest. That means partly he is opening up countries that are closed and dominating their people so they can hear and receive the gospel. And also that he is preparing workers for the harvest field, equipped with all the tools and gifts they need,

and in these last days it will include people who use their power to do exploits, including using the gift of prophecy that the scriptures make clear are also there for evangelism. This book is therefore not just written for interest, but for preparing the harvesters for the harvesting work that is coming.

That covers all I have to say for now that is prophetic about world events. But the other question I want to answer is – *What comes next for me?*

In the past I have been led to write multiple books at once where one book provided good writing practice for the next.

As I am coming to the completion of this book, which is my 6th, I am aware my writing has flowed because the Spirit of God is behind it. But I am now hearing God say to me there is another book he wants me to write, and this one, as my 7th, is special in some way.

To be honest, I have no idea what that means, or what it's about. But this is what I find exciting. When you write books under prophetic inspiration

you invariably learn and are enriched by it, so that is my cue to search my heart to find out what it is God has put there.

Beyond that I can tell you, I am equally excited for those of you that have been inspired by my story and are ready for a whole new prophetic chapter of your own. If you are ready for that, it is there for the asking, and you will certainly be blessed, and bless the world through it in your own unique way, as God has always planned for you.

That concludes my message on what I believe we can expect to see next.

32. Final Words

Thank you for walking with me down the memory lane of my prophetic life. And thank you for making it this far.

My hope is this inspired you and maybe opened your eyes to a new dimension of spiritual life, if you haven't found it for yourself already.

One thing I feel specifically authorised by the Lord to say to you, at this stage of the book, is that some of you that read it will have experiences that surpass anything I have written here.

In a strange way I also realise this applies to me too, and as I said at the beginning, I know the best is still to come, and that writing about what is past is only the Spirit led precursor to what is still to come.

At times I have known there to be a step change in the level of revelation the whole church seems to have, so if that happens again we can all

expect some surprises. When those things happen it's almost like the world wakes up to find everything has changed without even realising it.

Given that we prayed so many times – *Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven* – maybe we should not be surprised when it really happens. What I am certain of is that this prayer will not go unanswered, so we have every reason to be excited about the future.

My prayer for all of you is that God will give you the full experience of *Joel 2:28*. That he will fill your mind with dreams, visions, and revelations of his Spirit that will enrich your life in every way. And that through it you will be instrumental in him bringing Heaven to Earth in every way and in leading many more people to share the same experience with you. Amen.

God bless you and be with you in your adventure with him.

Appendix 1 – Becoming a Christian

This is the appendix I mentioned in the preface that I added for the benefit of those that have little or no experience of prophecy, and for those that have no faith in these things.

If that is you then let me first welcome you. I am about to explain some things that may have escaped your life experience until this point, so I am hoping you will realise that this book is no work of fiction but is in fact based in realities that are firmer than anything you have yet encountered.

Prophecy, which is what you are about to read about in this book, is what we Christians call a gift of the Spirit – meaning a gift from the Spirit of God, which simply means it is from God.

This gift does not stand alone but it is one of a number of gifts that God gives to his people that are in constant use by many Christian believers out

there who have discovered them. In fact the real gift that many have discovered is that of the indwelling of the Spirit of God himself by whom these things come, and the fact that he can fill our whole being with his presence, if we let him.

Those who have discovered this truth are living a whole new kind of life. You may never have heard it put this way before but that is the truth of what is going on under the radar in the lives of many people.

One thing the Bible says is that '*the sons of God are led by the Spirit of God*' (Read Romans chapter 8 in the Bible). People who have the Holy Spirit within them really are living a different kind of life – something Jesus called an '*abundant life*' or '*life in all of its fullness*', and in fact to become a son as this describes does in fact depend of whether we have that experience of God.

At this point I hear two main questions coming up from many of you as you read this. One is – *How do I get this experience?* And the other is – *Is this really real?* Let me answer this last question first as that

clearly needs to be resolved before you can contemplate the other.

As I said earlier, prophecy is just one gift of the Spirit. Another is healing, and another is miracles.

In about 2006 I began an adventure with these gifts on the streets of various cities in the UK. I already believed in them because I had read and believed what it said about it in the Bible, but this was where I actually began to do it in a significant way.

It began with me watching short leg bones lengthen and broken bones heal almost instantly as somebody prayed for them in the name of Jesus.

In fact the first such healing or miracle I saw myself through my own prayers was of knuckles regrow into the fingers of a man who had an accident with a circular saw seven years earlier and he had severed his forefinger and middle finger, but the surgeons had stitched them back

on.

The knuckles were destroyed so the fingers were useless, but during prayer for his healing I watched his fingers first change from white to red as his blood flow was restored, and then the knuckles grew back into his fingers and he began to bend them, which would have been impossible because his guiders had been severed.

In truth one of his fingers remained stiff even though it had straightened and blood flow was restored, but that is the kind of mystery we learned we sometimes encounter, which is something I won't get into here. My point is, this is another gift of the Spirit which in this case is convincing as it involves actual physical bone growth, and since then I have seen all manner of physical conditions healed, often instantly.

Healings and miracles of this kind have been verified by doctors, and nowadays there are many examples of it actually filmed and released on YouTube.

Is the gift of healing real? – I offer you an emphatic yes and I can't think of what better evidence to offer you of this than solid bone growth.

In the same way, prophecy is also just as real. In fact the Bible suggests it is the greatest of the gifts, even above healing and miracles.

If you need more proof than my word on this then you have to dig it out for yourself. The experience is there to be had if you look for it.

As many Christians know, prophecy does not always foretell the future as some think. In fact prophecy can be simply defined as God speaking through his people. Often it simply takes the form of encouragement, which should not be surprising because God is an amazing parent who cares for us with everything we need to live and thrive.

Sometimes, however, prophecy does point

the way to the future, and this is certainly the case in many of the Bible prophecies, but it also happens frequently in the use of the gift among believers who have God's Spirit within them.

That brings me to the first question I believe many of you who read this book will be asking – *How do I get this experience of God's Spirit within?*

Do you have to become 'religious'? – No.

Do you have to begin to live a good life? – No, because you can't. All you can do is submit yourself to God to make you good. Becoming good by yourself is more of an impossibility for you than you may realise because the real problem we all have is more of the heart than the behaviour.

Those things we do that show we are beings with a real problem stem from the heart so it is the heart that must be changed for real goodness to begin to emerge – and this is true for every one of us.

Outward behaviour does not solve that

problem. It has to be dealt with within, and that is not something you can do for yourself – it requires another miracle, but one that many experience every single day in our age.

In short the reality is – God must do it, but he will only do that when you invite it because he doesn't simply muscle in on our lives and force himself upon us without our consent.

He gave you sovereign free will over your own life so you get to decide what happens with it. Therefore this must be a choice that you make for it to happen.

Is God willing to do it for you? Emphatically YES! In truth he is longing for you to make that kind of surrender. He loves you. You are his creature. But like all others you are broken and need to be fixed.

As the one who made you he knows how to do it and he has put everything in place, which was quite a costly thing I might add. If you look at what Jesus suffered on the cross to make it possible you will realise that is the measure of just how much God

does love you and just how far he is prepared to go to restore you to what he made you to be.

God has done his part, but now you must do yours, and it is done by turning to God and inviting him to come in – though one thing I must add – this must be a wholehearted decision for you. It must be a decision to give your whole life to him so you too can be led by the Spirit of God.

For me, as one who has been living that life for more than 47 years now I can tell you it is an exciting thing – life in all its fullness. But it is also at times extremely challenging because God goes to work on us to transform us completely – how we think, how we live, what we love, what we enjoy, what we do.

As I said, he is your maker and he knows what you were made for. All that will be recovered if you choose to walk this path, but you must be ready to leave your old life behind because this one will be entirely new.

Those old problems you have may not

instantly disappear, but you must set yourself against the things you know are wrong. That is what we call repentance, and it is an important choice to make.

God is the one that is committed to do that work in you and it will be a lifelong experience where he works on one thing after another, with the promise of eternal life hereafter.

For myself, I wouldn't have it any other way. His ideas are always so much better than mine. The greatest thing about this is what you will enter into is not '*religion*', but a personal relationship with God, and that is the most valuable thing in the world. Like an unbreakable marriage, he promises never to leave you or forsake you, and with God he never breaks his promises.

You may need a little time to think this over, but if you decide to go ahead then what you need to do is simply but sincerely pray a prayer like this, and mean what it says. If you are ready to do that then this is all it takes. Here goes:

Prayer...

Dear God, I realise I have been living my own life until now, but now I want to surrender my life to you so I can live the life you are offering me. I here and now turn away from all that I know is wrong and ask you to forgive me for my sin. Thank you for what Jesus did for me on the cross. Please come into my heart today. I give my life to you. Please give me your Holy Spirit and come and live in me. Make me your child today, right now I ask. Thank you for your promise to save me. I now commit my life to you. Amen.