

# How to Respond to Personal Prophecy

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Today we will talk about personal prophecy, and how we can and should prepare (ourselves) towards seeing their fulfilment in our lives.

Two key words:      prepare    &    prepare ourselves

**1 Timothy 1:18 (NCV)** *Timothy, my child, I am giving you a command that agrees with the prophecies that were given about you in the past. I tell you this so you can follow them and fight the good fight.*

- Timothy had prophetic words spoken over his life at his ordination service before he was sent to Ephesus in Greece
- Paul writes to Timothy & reminds him about these prophecies, and instructs him to fight the good fight (of faith)

**(KJ21) 18** ... *the **prophecies which went before** concerning thee (you), that thou (you) by them might(est) wage a good warfare ...*

- Prophecies were given to Timothy before (in the past)
- Prophecies also went before him – they pointed to his future
- He was told to use these prophecies & wage a good warfare by them

**(GNB) 18** ... ***Use those words as weapons** in order to fight well ...*

- This presupposes that he **knew & remembered** the words of prophecy
- It is good practice to transcribe (significant) personal prophecies, and:
  - Take the words to God in prayer
  - Ask God what we must do on our part before He can do His part

## **A few important points about personal prophecy:**

- Personal prophecies do not automatically come to pass
- Personal prophecies speak mainly about the potential of a person rather than the certainty of their fulfilment
- For personal prophecies to be fulfilled, two main things must happen:
  - We prepare ourselves to step into our God-ordained future
  - When we have done our part, God will do His part

Invisible flaws in our lives that don't show up until pressure & speed increase.

- New levels, new devils (Quote by Joyce Meyer)
- Vehicles with unbalanced wheels - the higher the speed, the greater the shakes

**1 Corinthians 16:8–9 (AMP)** *I will remain in Ephesus [however] until Pentecost, **9 For a wide door of opportunity for effectual [service] has opened to me [there, a great and promising one], and [there are] many adversaries.***

- Personal Prophecies announce new doors of opportunity God has for us
- Each new door of opportunity comes with new adversaries

**2 Corinthians 2:12 (NLT)** *When I came to the city of Troas to preach the Good News of Christ, **the Lord opened a door of opportunity for me.***

- Paul speaks of a door of (ministry) opportunity that God opened for him
- Evidently, God considered Paul ready for this new ministry opportunity

### **Why do personal prophecies sometimes not (fully) come to pass?**

Provided that a personal prophecy is truly God-inspired, here are some main reasons why they sometimes do not come to pass:

- **Inactivity**
  - God speaks to us through prophecy to invoke in us a deeper commitment to Him and greater engagement in His kingdom
- **Insufficient spiritual growth & development**
  - Certain giftings & functions in us are not unlocked until we reach the required spiritual maturity
- **Insufficient character & personality growth and development**
  - For our own protection, and for the protection of others around us, God limits our promotion until we are ready for it

**Psalm 78:41 (NKJV)** *Yes, again and again they tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel.***

Ultimately, it isn't God who limits us – instead, we limit ourselves.

**1 Timothy 1:18–20 (NCV)** *Timothy, my child, I am giving you a command that agrees with the prophecies that were given about you in the past. I tell you this so you can follow them and fight the good fight. **19 Continue to have***

**faith and do what you know is right.** Some people have rejected this, and their faith has been shipwrecked.

- Continue to have faith – this speaks of spiritual growth & development
- Do what you know is right – this speaks of character growth

**1 Timothy 4:14–15 (HCSB)** *Do not neglect the gift that is in you; it was given to you through prophecy, with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. 15 Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all.*

- Do not neglect the gift that is in you ...
- (Timothy, function at your full capacity & potential)
- Practice these things ... do something!
- Be committed to them & your progress may be evident to all
- Progress in God's purposes for us comes by being committed to God

Inactivity	stalls progress
Immaturity	hinders progress
Impatience	overshoots progress

**2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV)** *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.*

**(NLT)** ... fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you ...

- Timothy, get on fire for God
- Don't get impatient if doors don't open immediately
- Don't get jealous with others if their doors open before yours

### **Biblical Examples:**

1. Moses spent 40 years in the desert to prepare himself for his open door
  - a. He was 40 years old when he tried to help his Jewish brothers
  - b. At 80 years old, he was finally ready to lead them out of Egypt
2. David spent 17 years to prepare himself for his open door
  - a. Samuel anoints David to be the new king in 1 Samuel chpt. 16
  - b. It wasn't until 2 Samuel chpts. 2 & 5 that David was crowned king

**Closing statement:** God doesn't have 40 years to get you and me ready!