

Personal Prophecy – Potential or Certainty?

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Today we will discuss personal prophecy, and what we can & should do towards seeing prophetic words fulfilled in our lives.

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
- Apostle Paul writes to Timothy & reminds him about these prophecies, and instructs him to fight the good fight (of faith)

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

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

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

- We should **know & remember** the words of prophecy spoken over us
- It is good practice to transcribe significant personal prophecies, and:
 - Take the words to God in prayer & remind Him of what He said
 - Ask God what you must do, so He can do what only He can do
 - Fight discouragement & despondency with the words of prophecy

Isaiah 43:26 (GW) *Remind me of what happened. Let us argue our case together. State your case so that you can prove you are right.*

NKJ: ...*put Me in remembrance ...*

- God is not forgetful – but many of us are!
- Personal prophecy is God reaching out to us, to encourage us, & pull us up higher in our commitment to Him

A few important points about personal prophecy:

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

Psalm 75:6–7 (NIV) *No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. 7 It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.*

KJV. vs. 6 *Promotion comes ... from ... God ... He is the Judge ...*

- Only God can promote us into our God-ordained destiny
- He knows when we are ready to go to the next level

Pressure & Speed

- New levels, new devils (Quote by Joyce Meyer)
- Our next level will bring increased pressure and higher speeds
- Invisible flaws in our lives don't show up until pressure & speed increases
- Example of unbalanced wheels on cars - the higher the speed, the greater the wobbles

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, there 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 growth & personality 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
- So that your progress may be evident to all
Progress in God's purposes comes by being committed to God

Inactivity	stalls progress
Immaturity	hinders progress
Impatience	overshoots progress & causes regress

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 approx. 15 years to prepare himself for his open door
 - a. David was anointed by Samuel to be the next king in his teen years (1 Samuel 16:12-13)
 - b. David was crowned the king of Judah at age 30 (2 Sam. 2:4,5:4-5)
 - c. It took a further 7 ½ years before he was finally crowned king of Israel (2 Sam. 5:3)

Four words:

- **Prayer** – fight the good fight of faith in prayer
- **Preparation** - preparation time is never wasted time
- **Performance** - serve well where you are now - keep a good attitude
- **Promotion** - be available