

## DEVELOPING PROPHETIC CHARACTER

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### GROWING IN THE PROPHETIC

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Tonight we're going to talk about developing prophetic character. That doesn't mean we're going to start drawing pictures of characters. Character is actually integrity, okay? It's not a cartoon. We really have to understand that as Christians we are suppose to already have a higher standard than the world. One of the problems in the world today , a big problem certainly in the United States of America , is that there's not a big enough difference between the world and the Christian world. It difficult for the nonbeliever to tell the difference. I don't mean just because we dress the same and we look the same because we are in earth suits. We do look like humans. Because we are. We have the Holy Spirit in earthen vessels, but it's our actions. It's what do we think is right and what do we think is wrong and what are we willing to do when nobody else is watching but the Lord? Those are the things that set us apart. There needs to be a larger gap and there is going to be and the Lord is calling us to separate, to be separate, that doesn't mean to physically get out of the world because we need to minister to the world, but our actions and our lifestyle and our thought patterns and our conversation needs to separate us. We need to be separate. We need to show the manifold wisdom of God. All of the Bible was written by either apostles or prophets. There's only one author and that's God. But each writer communicated God's message through their personality and character. Prophecy is influenced by us therefore we must make every effort to submit ourselves to the character of Christ within us. If we're going to walk in the prophetic, it's going to come through us and through our personality. It's supposed to. God's wants it that way. Therefore we have to be able to submit who we are to Him. This is a process called the salvation of your soul. You, having the Holy Spirit within you, are transferring that holiness into the soul that you are and becoming Christ-like. This is why it's so important as we move into the prophetic that we understand the character that we exhibit affects the words that we bring from the Lord. That's why it's so important that we recognize the importance of the vessel that's speaking it. Anything God gives through you is coming through a human filter and you don't want to filter out His intentions, His message. It can't be changed whatsoever, but rather it needs to be blessed as it comes through you. He chose to put the treasures in earthen vessels. He chose to pour the Holy Spirit in so it could pour out, right? Our of your belly will flow rivers of living water.

Ephesians 3:10 says that to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,... When we speak the words they are heard in the heavenly places. We speak the wisdom of God when we speak in His work.

It has been said that "we need to allow the Lord to mold us into a vessel that is able to communicate His heart to humanity." He is the potter and we are the clay. Literally we are made up of the dust of the ground and we are mostly water, kind of like the mud on the potter's wheel. We need to understand that, the difference, we have life in us and that life we are supposed to give over to the Lord Jesus that as we die to ourselves and that process we are giving our life to Him. In order to follow Him we have to die to ourselves. In order to live we have to die. Right? The seed has to fall to the ground and die in order to have that life. We are bound to the law unless we die to Christ in which case then we can walk in grace. God has a program for each of us to build character and maturity and integrity.

There is a difference, I mentioned this last time and I want to go into it a little bit tonight, between a prophet and a prophetic person. It is a difference in intensity and responsibility. It is a difference in calling. Someone who is called to walk in what we would call the office of a prophet and someone who has the gift or empowerment of prophesy in operation. Now we know we all can prophesy because Paul said we could. We all have the spirit of prophesy which is the Holy Spirit. This series that I'm doing I want it to be understood that it is for all prophetic people but there is an intensity of those that are called to be prophets that they need to get even more out of it. There is a higher calling. There is a higher responsibility and while I'm going to be teaching this as I have been so all of us can put it to use, those that have the office of a prophet have to understand there are differences and they're going to have to receive those differences, also.

Now I want to look at a record. Go to Luke 2 where you'll see both of these in operation at a very important time. This is a time when Jesus is eight days old and His mother and father are taking Him to the temple and the Holy Spirit leads an old man named Simeon and he begins to speak prophesy over the Child. As he is speaking, in comes an old prophetess Anna. She takes the words that are spoken and she begins to herald those. I'm not going to read the whole record. You can read it in chapter 2 verse 21 through 40, but I'll read 25 and 26: (25) And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. (26) And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. I've heard stories about Simeon and I've heard him called a prophet many, many times. But, he's not a prophet. It says he's a man. He was just a certain disciple. He was a man of God, but he was not a prophet. Now down in verse 36 it says, Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, (Every Bible class I ever took that talked about the history of the time between Malachi and John the Baptist, every single one of them I ever took and every writing I ever read about that said the same thing. That there was no prophet in Israel between Malachi and John. Maybe that is true, but there was at least one prophetess. I think we don't look close

enough at the Word of God because here was Anna the prophetess. She was of great age, okay.) ...the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity... Now lets say she got married when she was thirteen. Let's say she was married for seven years , which is what it says , and then she was eighty-four years in the temple. (37) and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. So that means she has to be at least 104 years old. So of those four hundred years, at least a hundred and four of them Anna is there. (38) And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. In this record you see both the spirit of prophecy and the office of a prophet working together with great humility. Just beautifully working together.

What I realized was in this record you can see all the major attributes of prophetic integrity. There are many more in there that I could show you, but I'm going to show you twelve of them. I'll list them here for you then I'll go through each one individually.

- 1.Humility
- 2.Hearing the Voice of God
- 3.Obedying the Voice of God
- 4.Submitting one to another
- 5.Maturity
- 6.Fear of the Lord
- 7.Worship
- 8.Intercession
- 9.Speaking blessings , through personal prophecy
- 10.Servant to God and to mankind
- 11.Just and devout
- 12.Proper timing

1. Humility. This is a bedrock necessity , a fruit of the Spirit for all Christian life, but certainly if we're going to walk prophetically, humility is a foundation. Humility is not low self-esteem. Low self-esteem originates in fear and pride. Humility is not only an absence of pride or doubt, but an absence of self. It is freedom from a preoccupation with self. Humility is a balance between pride and doubt. It is a place of knowing that without Him we can do nothing, but through Him we can do all things. Humility places us in a position to receive the grace to accomplish for God what we cannot accomplish for Him ourselves. If we will humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, He will raise us up. He gives grace to the humble. It's a prerequisite to receiving the grace that we need in order to walk as His kids. In order to walk to speak His Word , that's a higher level , in order words to be trusted with His Words prophetically, we need that humility. We need to walk in it and make it a part of our character , part of our lives that we would walk in that. Sometimes if you are truly humble sometimes people are going to think you are terribly arrogant. Because He's going to ask you to say things and do things that they are going to think, "Well, who does he think he is? He's thinking of himself more highly than he ought." But, nevertheless if you're truly humble you will obey and in your heart you will know that it's not by your works or by your abilities that you are able to accomplish these things. But true humility is something that will set you apart from the world.

2. Hearing the Voice of God. In Jeremiah 23 it says, (22) But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings. (23) "Am I a God near at hand," says the LORD, "And not a God afar off?" In other words, "Am I a God only for today and not also for tomorrow? Can I just give you a word for today but not for down the road?" Of course. He's saying, "Listen. I can tell you what's coming. I can tell you how to prepare." We need to hear that voice , to hear His counsel. It will take us from the evil way. He will not only tell us a word for today to keep us going, but He will tell us a word for tomorrow to give us a direction to go into. The prophetic brings us the counsel of the Lord not only for today, but for tomorrow. That's one of the attributes. Now not every prophet , I'm speaking of the office of a prophet&mdash; not every prophet will prophesy foretelling. As I said before , Abraham , there's not a single example of him prophesying and foretelling anything. Now he heard things that were foretelling , the Lord told him, "I'm going to make you a father of many nations." Those were things that were ahead, but the Lord told him those things, but there's no place where he prophesied those, that I can see. So we need to not put people in a box. If you're called, you're called to obey and you do what God's called you to do and let somebody else do what they are called to do, alright? But, hearing the voice of God. Simeon heard the voice of God and he came. Anna heard the voice of God and she came.

3. Obeying the voice of God. To hear it is one thing. To obey it is another. Remember when the Lord spoke to Ananias and said, "Ananias, I want you to go down there , there is a chosen vessel whose name is Saul." Ananias said, "No way. I'm not going to go talk to him. You know about him don't you?" And he tried to tell the Lord all about Saul, as if He didn't know. The thing is though, who was he talking to? He was talking to the Lord. He was on good terms. What did he end up doing? He went and obeyed. Look at the fruit that came from that. There's nothing wrong with taking it back to the Lord. He just was

getting his faith built up. He was getting some more information and the Lord was happy to give that to him. There does come a point of disobedience and unbelief. The Lord doesn't care for that. But, if we will hear the voice and obey and carry it out, then we'll see the blessings. You know, receiving a prophetic word, when you receive a prophetic word, you have a responsibility. There are people that receive God's heart, the counsel of the Lord for them, but it never comes to pass, because they have a responsibility to walk in that. They have a responsibility to do as Ananias did, to take it back to the Lord and say, "Okay, if I'm supposed to go in that direction, what about this?" There is some obedience required when we receive. As we are given, we also are required things. So to obey the voice of God, obedience is a key to hearing from the Lord. We'll not walk in the prophetic powerfully and accurately if we're more concerned about pleasing men and looking respectable in their eyes rather than being obedient.

Proverbs 29:25 says, The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe. The Lord will many times ask you to go do things that don't look so safe. Ananias was stepping out on a limb to go try and find Saul. He could have been thinking, "Now what if I get there and he's just pretending he's blind? and he's got all these soldiers, this could be a ploy to capture me and throw me in prison. Is this the voice of the Lord or is this some spirit that has been sent to get me out of hiding?" You know there are a lot of things that go through your mind, right? But, he knew the voice of the Lord and he obeyed it and the great fruit came. We will be safe when we listen to the voice of the Lord. It may not seem that way at times, but we will be safe. We have to obey. There are certain things you can give God, I mean He doesn't need the things you have. Many times He'll ask for them but they are already His. The only two things you can really give Him is faith and obedience. Love falls in the category of both of those, but faith and obedience. Those are really the only things you can give Him.

4. Submission one to another. Now here you have a certain man, an old man, okay, he's an elder for sure, just by his age. He certainly listens to the Spirit. The Spirit has told him something very important. You're not going to die until you see the Messiah. Now we don't know how long before this he was told that. But, that's comforting to an old man to know that he's got a certain amount of time left until he sees that Messiah. How many men would have loved to have had that promise? So Simeon knew. Then he came by revelation, by the voice of God came to the temple and chose that Child and he began to speak the blessings over Him. Here comes Anna and she is the prophetess. She didn't come up there and push him out of the way and say, "Wait a minute. Where's your prophet card? Who gives you permission to speak those blessings? That's my job. I've been here for a hundred-four years and by gosh nobody's going to take the job away from me that I've waited all this time to do, to speak blessings over the Messiah. Now get out of my way." You don't see that at all do you? Thank God. She came in and glorified God. There was humility on her part to submit one to another. Boy, how refreshing is that? Submission one to another, the prophetic person must have the courage and strength to stand alone if called to, but at the same time have humility and wisdom to understand the need for corporateness. No man is an island. We are not designed to stand alone. When we start thinking that we have to do that, that's when we start thinking we're the only one left. That's what happened to Elijah. Now Elijah was called to be separate. He was called

to be alone with just a few people. Alone totally with just a few ravens for a while, but then with a widow and her son. But see he got used to that and it came to the point where he said, "God I'm the last one left." God said, "No you're not. There's at least seven-thousand others." We need to be able to stand alone and you'll notice that prophets many times are kind of rough characters because they come from that need to be able to stand alone and take care of themselves if they need to. But, there is another side to that: We need one another. While we do need to get away and seek the Lord, there may be times when we need to just stand and know that we could stand if we had to stand alone, we still have to understand God's heart is that through that call that you've been given, through that stand that you're taking, He wants to use that to bring people together. We can't forget the other half of that. We need submission one to another. Proper relationship is required, including discipleship, submission to authority, loyalty and accountability. These all build character. God's ability to trust us and to help us mature are required through these things. God won't trust us with greater things unless we prove to Him our willingness to submit to the Spirit of God in someone else. I like to say that I feel like I have a duty to submit to the Spirit of God in every other Christian, whether they are five years old, if they had that Spirit manifesting through them for me, I have a duty to God to receive that. Now I also know you understand that I have to be able to discern and so do you. But, we have to have that heart. I think that puts a little bit more burden on me. If I was just to say, "Hey forget you. Come through the proper channels. Wait until you get through seminary then I'll listen to you." That would take some weight off of me, wouldn't it? There are many people that have an attitude like that. It helps them. It comes out of a need to protect themselves. But, I don't care. I think maybe it takes a little bit more work to be humble and to stand openly as an open book before the people of God and receive even from the littlest one. I think Jesus was an example of that. And so we maybe do need to understand, we're not called to take the easier road.

In the military when they are teaching about survival and escape and evasion, one of the ways that they capture soldiers that are trying to escape or evade them is they look for the paths of least resistance. They figure out where the person was last sighted and where they are trying to get to and they'll just look at a map and find the paths of least resistance. They'll set up, in the context of what we're talking about, snares for them&mdash; watch for them there. The devil will do that to you. He will give you the option of a path of least resistance and boy if you have the attitude of that if God's in it, it's easy, you'll always get caught by the devil on the path of least resistance because it's not always easy. Thank God for the times when it does flow and everything falls right into place, right? That's not normally the way it is. I can attest to that after all these years. It's normally not the easy way that's the way the Lord's taking you. He will always equip you for the way He wants you to go. Every time you pass that test and you think now it's time for retirement you find out&mdash; No. He has a more difficult one for you now and more difficult tests. The nice thing about God though is that you never, ever flunk His tests. He just keeps giving you the same one over and over until you pass it. How many of you have seen the same test a few times? It's time to move on. Praise God. Well, with the voice of the Lord submitting one to another we can help each other, right? Because maybe you can see the part of the trail that I'm always veering to the left or the right on. That little part that I don't think there's a trail because there's a bush and that's

where the devil gets me to veer off and then I end up going in a circle starting on the same test again. You may have already passed that test. When we submit one to another it has nothing to do with age. It just has to do with what God has taught you.

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. (11) Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (In the things of this world&mdash;specifically he's talking about money here.), who will commit to your trust the true riches? (12) "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? God will give you things and see what you do with them. He'll give you responsibilities to help each other , to receive from one another and if you don't do that with humility and carry that out with humility, He's not going to be able to. It's not that He doesn't want to, but He has made these rules and He lives by them. He won't give you the things that He has for you. He's going to wait until you learn to listen and receive.

1 Peter 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God (Ephesians 4:11&mdash; I wrote myself a note there , the mighty hand of God in Ephesians 4:11&mdash; you've heard that before&mdash; the hand&mdash; the thumb apostle, the forefinger prophet, the middle finger evangelist, ring finger pastor, little finger teacher&mdash; the mighty hand of God), humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time... So other words in terms of submitting one to another we need to be able to submit in the body of Christ. If you have a prophetic word, it still needs to be submitted. There is probably not a ministry in the body that needs to be mentored more closely , needs to be pastored more than that of the prophetic&mdash; because of the power behind it , because of the power of the spoken word. If the devil can come in and offend you and get you to speak those things which are not of God then he has authority to go out on your words and do those things. That's why we need that understanding of submitting one to another and allowing our lives to be placed in other's hands. That takes trust. Our trust needs to be in the Lord, but we also need to have others that are growing with good character that have been given trust by the Lord. So submit ourselves , humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and He'll raise us up in due time.

Apostles and prophets need one another. Together they form the foundation of a church (Ephesians 2:20). As the understanding of the importance of corporateness increases we will see more power exercised and more authority delegated to us. Maturity in the prophetic produces the understanding that we are a part of the body, each needing the ministry of the other. This is why we have had those that are prophetic many times feel like they are not part , because they've had to go through that time of wilderness , they've had to go through that time of standing alone , that they've come to the point of feeling like they can never fit in. Part of that has been the sin of the body of Christ by not allowing the voice of God in. We don't want to know what the seers are seeing. We don't want to know what the prophets are hearing because it is unsettling sometimes. Because it does come through an imperfect vessel, sometimes that vessel doesn't look the way we think it should. It doesn't fit in the stereotypes of what we have in this day and time of a "minister." Well, I would guarantee you if John the Baptist came walking in here right

now, he probably would be kind of tough to handle. Even if he is a modern John the Baptist. Let's say he wasn't wearing camel's hair. Let's just say he was wearing Harley-Davidson leather and he's been eating locust and honey and smells like fire because you have to cook locust. And the way you gather honey in the wild is you build a fire under the tree where the bees are and that smoke stupefies the bees and so therefore you can get to the honey. So John the Baptist was making a statement by his lifestyle of eating locust and wild honey, he was making a statement that the baptism he really wanted was that baptism of fire because everything he ate had to be gathered with fire. Even the locust were gathered with fire. You would get locust when they would come into a field and they would come down there and eat like they do and the way you get them is , you don't just go out there and catch them , you start the field on fire and they are cooked for you. See everything John did was to have that fire in his life because he was making a statement, "I'm coming and I'm going to baptize in water, but there's a baptism of fire that's coming." That's what John really wanted , that baptism of fire.

We have things available that John would have loved to have had. He was rejected and therefore He whom he was proclaiming was rejected. We have to do everything we can that the word would be received, but if it is rejected understand they are rejecting the word. That's why we need to make sure that our character is such that they are not rejecting the word because of us. Now sometimes God will do that on purpose. Alright? I just believe that. He sometimes chooses the most unlikely or the most unlikeable person on purpose. But, nevertheless unless He tells you different, you need to raise up your integrity to make it possible for people to receive the word you have to bring.

You may be raised up alone, but you can never receive the anointing or the mantle of another if you're unwilling to submit to mentoring. In other words, if you are raised up alone, you may be just like Elijah. You may be powerful, but you're never going to have what Elisha had , which was his anointing plus Elijah's. Look at Elijah and you don't think of a real smooth guy, do you? He's kind of rough around the edges, isn't he? Well, maybe Elisha would have been the same. Elisha was a tough cookie too. When Elijah found him he was plowing a field with twelve yoke of oxen. Now that's a bunch of oxen. He was no weakling. He was no little guy. Then what did he do? After he got called by Elijah he kills all of the oxen and takes his plows and throws them in there and makes an altar out of the plows. The guys pretty rugged. But you don't see that in his ministry. You see a much more refined minister , he didn't hang out in the woods nearly as much. He was in town. There is just a whole different picture of a prophet than his mentor was. Don't you think that the one had a little bit to do with smoothing out the edges of the other? Don't you think he learned from his spiritual father? He did. And he inherited the mantle of Elijah. There is another think he inherited from Elijah , he inherited his curses , he inherited Jezebel. From mentors you don't only get what's good , you have to sort through it. Well anyway she got hers in the end. We need submission. We need accountability.

This is something I noticed as I was meditating on this information that all prophets appear in the Bible to be mentored or to be mentors or both except Sampson. That might tell you something. Now I don't know. He was a judge , I don't know that he's called a

prophet, but I think that's important though. It doesn't appear that he had any mentoring or nurturing nor did he have anyone that he was raising up. Look where he ended up. He had tremendous ability, he really did. Elijah. We don't know if he had a mentor, but we do know he was mentoring. Elisha. We know he had both. Samuel. He had a pretty bad example as a mentor, Eli. But he also had sons of the prophets, he appears to be the first one that really had a School of the Prophets. Samuel's integrity was very, very high even though his mentor, Eli, was terrible. "His own sons were sons of Beliel," it says. So we do need that mentoring but we are going to be mentored by imperfect ministers, also. It's up to us to take it back to the Lord. That's why having a relationship with the Lord is so important.

One way to become mature is to be mentored. It definitely helps with the process. That's not saying you can't become mature without mentoring, but it will help and it will save time for you.

5. Maturity. Now, I thought of this: Now we know that both Simeon and Anna were mature, just because of the number of years they'd lived, but I thought of the record in 1 Kings 13. God is going to try us and He's going to test us. Even if you have the call of a prophet on your life, I think sometimes we too often want to move in and take the title before we've really been tried and proven. If you really have the call then just do the job and let people notice it and let them come to you. I was thinking of that record in 1 Kings 13 where the young man of God, it calls him the man of God. He came down from Judah and he prophesied against the altars in Bethel. It was tremendous. I love teaching that record. The altar splits and fire comes down from heaven and Jeroboam the king says, "Get him" and as soon as he points at him his hand withers up and he says, "Don't get him." The man of God's prophesying things about, he's prophesying names of people that are going to be born four-hundred years later, that are going to come down there and clean that place up. Jeroboam says, "Hey, would you pray for me please." He says, "Alright." and he prays for him. They say, "Come on out and we'll give you a gift." He says, "No. I have to get back. I have to obey the Lord." Then he's on his way back obeying the Lord and what happens? This old prophet who really wasn't walking with the Lord&mdash; it doesn't say he was a false prophet though, but he comes and finds him. I think he just really wanted fellowship with this guy. He saw the power. How many of us in the church want the power of God? We know we're called of God and we want the power of God, so we see the power of God and what do we do? We go run after it. But unfortunately without maturity what happens? That young man of God submitted himself to illegitimate authority and lost his life because of it. What happens was that the older prophet came to him and said, "I'm a prophet like you are." And because he allowed himself to be flattered, he went back and accepted the lie when God had spoken to him clearly. He was a prophet, I have no doubt that he was a prophet, but he was a young man of God and God hadn't given him that title yet because he was still maturing so he allowed himself to be flattered and followed after somebody that would flatter him and it cost him his life and his ministry. There's a lesson to be learned there. We need maturity. There's nothing wrong with being called what you are called to be. But you don't need to grasp after that. I'm in a position where I need to explain and teach in terms of well if you can call a pastor a "pastor" why can't we call a prophet a "prophet"? If we can call an

evangelist an "evangelist" why can't we call an apostle an "apostle"? Right? If the Bible says we should, we should, so I'm on that side , I'm fighting that battle for others that will follow , but, I want you to see the other side of the picture. Don't take the title for the wrong reason and don't take it too soon if you are called to that. If you're a prophetic person and you're an intercessor, then fine be prophetic , interceed, but don't allow yourself to go after that honor , allow yourself to be mature. Go ahead and grow up. If it takes a little bit longer for you to mature, for people to notice that maturity in you then that's great. I can tell you that you will look back and thank God you had that extra time before the extra things were being required of you because once you start being recognized there's more things that begin to be required of you of people and some of them really aren't necessarily biblical. They expect things that aren't really possible.

Another thing is zealousness can never replace maturity. Zealousness is good and I always try to , especially when the youth come in , the young people come into ministry , and I'm talking "youth" spiritually, okay? Whatever age. That zealousness is great because it give you a big push forward, but it'll never replace maturity. Maturity will always outlast zealousness alone. But at the same time we don't want to kill , if we are mature we don't want to kill the zealousness that people come with , we want to mentor that and shape that and mature that zealousness with wisdom.

Psalm 105 (17) He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave. (18) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. (19) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him. He had brought forth a word when he was seventeen. He brought forth some visions, and yet it was twenty-one years, I think, before those words came to pass and all that time he was being tested. You've heard the story of how he was put in that pit. That pit stands for a prophet in training. That was definitely Joseph and that's definitely us. We've been through the pit , some of us are still in it. But the Word of the Lord was testing him. You know what Joseph said to his brothers. He said, "Hey, don't worry about it. That which was meant for evil, God meant it for good." Many of these things that come to you, you are the deciding factor on whether it is a test or a temptation. It's which way you go. Because what the devil intends for evil, God will always use for good. You're the deciding factor by listening to the voice of the Lord and obeying.

As we continue to mature we don't make the mistakes so many times. We are wiser in that we pray like the Lord Jesus did, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We don't tempt the Lord so much anymore. That's one of the commandments. We think it's one of the suggestions. God will try you by the Word of the Lord before you will be released into the Word of the Lord. Prophets must grow into their authority.

I always like to give the example as a prophet you have authority in your word. If you want to have the authority to call down fire from heaven like Elisha did and burn up fifty soldiers a couple times in a row. Remember the story? Fifty came up there to get him and he calls down fire from heaven and they are toast. The next fifty come and boom toast again. The next fifty come and the captain of the fifty said, "Hey, please don't burn us up. Please just come with us?" Alright. He went. The second group was slow learners. But

anyway if you want that kind of authority I like to say then you can't get upset in the grocery store parking lot when some little old lady bumps your car with the grocery cart and puts a scratch in it. If you've got that kind of authority you can't be calling down fire from heaven on every little old lady you get upset with. There has to be some maturity so God can trust you, right? Do you get the picture?

Look at this in Jeremiah 1 (17) "Therefore (This is God calling him out.) Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them. (18) For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land; Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. (19) They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the LORD, "to deliver you." Now here's an example of a prophet , Jeremiah , he has all the problems that you have when God calls you. If He calls you and says He wants you to do things, and you have no authority to do them , nobody recognizes you. Here he is called to be a prophet to the nations , God informs him that He called him from his mother's womb. He goes, "Oh, yeah?" He's telling him all this bad news, then tells him, "I'm going to be with you." He had this call come to him, but he had no position, no responsibility, but yet God required him to live up to it. If you try to do that out of arrogance, you're not going to make anybody happy including God. You certainly won't be happy. You're going to be miserable in your call.

Does authority come revelation or responsibility? Now I've been told both. Authority comes from revelation and I've been told that it comes from responsibility. And I'm told by some one and not the other, but I believe it comes from both. I believe that when you have a revelation that there's an amount of authority that comes from that to bring that to pass.

I was talking to Apostle Farris Cox the other day about just this subject and he gave me a little insight into this and I meditated on it and I put it down in these words. Authority begins with revelation which makes way for responsibility. Through responsibility we enter the need for accountability which in turn puts us in a place to be trusted with more authority. There is a progression of authority. Now if you receive a Word of the Lord for your church and you just go blowing in there on Sunday because the Lord sent you, you're not going to be received and rightly so because you have no responsibility. The pastor of the church has the responsibility for all those people so therefore the responsibility of that word also lies with him. So you can come in and bring that word according to the rules of that church. Now believe me there can be much frustration if you are called to a church that doesn't believe in prophesy or doesn't believe in the gifts of the Spirit. Do you see what I'm saying? But if you have that revelation, then with it you have the responsibility to go to God to find out how to deliver that , not to blow in and just throw it out there where it's not going to be accepted. You have to do your best to bring it in love. If you will go back to the Lord by the authority that came with that revelation, He will give you the understanding and the direction on how you can bring this to pass. He'll give you a position or a place of responsibility whereby you can begin to bring this word forth. Through responsibility we have accountability. That shows God

that He can trust us. It shows others they can trust us and therefore more authority comes. So I think it's a progression of growth in the authority.

6. Fear of the Lord. Now it says that Anna was a daughter of Phanuel. Now in Genesis 32:30 it says, And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel (Phanuel -- which is the same thing, one's Hebrew and one's Greek) "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." In Genesis 32:22 it says he went to the brook called Jabbok. He sent his family in two different directions. He went alone. "Jabbok" means an outpouring or a pouring out. He poured himself out before the Lord and he wrestles it says, with God. He got a blessing. The Lord changed his name. But, it says the next day Jacob named that place "Phanuel" which means "face-to-face" or "seen the Lord face-to-face." This is what I believe God is trying to say to us about Anna. You can see it with Simeon. They saw God face-to-face. They were in a personal relationship with the Lord. They had close relationship with the Lord to hear the way they heard and to be able to obey the way they obeyed and to be able to show forth that submission without any pride or fear for their own positions or being misunderstood by anybody because they didn't have a position in Simeon's case. But she was a daughter of Phanuel. Jacob said, "For I have seen God face-to-face and my life has been preserved."

Now I think this represents the place that, that she had been to the place where she had faced her fears. Because this is where Jacob went and faced his fears. His brother who had sworn to kill him, this is where he met with his brother the next day. He faced his fears. He saw God face to face and he lived. He conquered those fears. When you conquer the fears and the fear of man, then you come to a place of peace with God. From that place, she was a daughter of Phanuel, she was coming from a position of peace with her Lord, from a position of having a face-to-face relationship to be able to speak the counsel of the Lord, to speak the heart of God or to just come forth with actions that were from the heart of God in love. Isn't that wonderful? The fear of God.

Proverbs 29:25, we already read that, the fear of man brings a snare but whoever trusts in the Lord will be saved. The fear of man is probably the root of almost every pit fall that you'll come into in the prophetic. Really in the Christian walk. It's the root to all stumbling blocks. There are two sides to the fear of man, the one is the fear to speak because of fear of rejection and the other is the desire to be recognized. These are some of the biggest hindrances to prophetic ministry.

I was in a room one time and I like to learn from whomever I can, I was in a room and I was watching Bob Jones minister to people, he was kind of relaxed and he was just ministering, but he made this statement right then. He said, "God always calls the prophetic from deep rejection." When he said that it was like lights came on in my head. Instantly I thought of Psalm 27:10 where David said, "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me." You see David was so rejected. His father didn't even bring him in. His father didn't even allow him to come get sanctified with the rest of the brothers and then when Samuel said, "Don't you have any other kids?" "Well yeah, I have one more. He's out with the sheep." He wouldn't even bring him in for dinner. That's how rejected David was by his own family. But out of that came a

tremendous prophet, priest and king , priest under the order of Melchizedek. You'll not hear clearly from the Lord if you have a stronghold of rejection or fear of man.

Fear of man brings confusion which is like idolatry unto the Lord. If you'll look in the Word of God and you'll go through and you'll just look up the word "confusion" you'll see the fear of man and idolatry are always there. Because when you have fear of man that's out of line in God's eyes you have men above Him&mdash; that's idolatry in His eyes.

Anger and offense are neutralized by forgiveness. The fear of man and the fear of rejection are broken by the power of the secret relationship with God. The wilderness experience gives us enduring strength to stand. Fasting alone will not replace the wilderness experience and knowing the hiding place of the Almighty. We have to know God face-to-face. We have to know where we can go to be hidden in the shadow of His wings where there is peace , where there is healing. Fasting is wonderful but there is a time when we need to get away and be with Him face those fears and let them be destroyed even if we need to wrestle. Just like Jacob came back with a limp, he was better off coming back with a limp of somebody that had seen God and faced his fears and came back a victor. Hey, sometimes where there is wrestling, there's going to be some battles and where there are battles sometimes there's going to be some fall-out&mdash; some damage even done to us. But, Hey, it's worth it. It was worth it for Jacob. It'll be worth it for you.

In our day and time we're very blessed to see a resurgence of prayer and fasting, but really we need to come back to a reawakening of the wilderness experience and what it is to come back to a secret relationship with God. I'm not sure if I mentioned this last time or not, but we've talked a lot about delivering the word and hearing -- being a friend of God so we could hear His voice , so He'll give us His secrets and give us His counsel. But it was Paul Cain that said one time, "On earth we're known by the things we say, but in heaven we're known by the things we keep to ourselves." We have to have that secret relationship or we won't be able to go very far. We have to always be able to pull back and even when we face rejection, we have to be able to go under the shadow of the Almighty and receive strength and go into that place of peace which does not come from the surrounding , what's going on around us. We have to be able to , even if we're in prison , to sing praises to God. We have to be able , even if we're stuck in a pit , to seek His face and to receive His ministry directly to us even when there's no one else to minister. We have to have that relationship or we'll not be able to become all that we could be.

If we've not dealt with the fear of man , it can lead to confusion , which will lead to frustration , which leads to anger. Anger, like bitterness, will taint the message and can bring judgment to the prophet. There are too many men and women that are prophetic that have a burning anger because of rejection or for whatever reason , for hurt in the past , and these things need to be healed.

When Moses , you can look it up sometimes if you want in Numbers 20 , God told Moses to speak to the rock, but instead he struck out in anger. God told him to speak to the rock to bring forth water, but he was angry and he told the children of Israel that God was angry and he struck the rock twice and because of that God said, "You're not going into the Promise Land." Because God wasn't angry , Moses was angry. If Moses would have said, "I'm angry." It wouldn't have been a problem with God. He would have just reproved him and he would have got over it, but because he was angry he spoke in the name of the Lord things that the Lord hadn't said for him to speak and he received the judgment. After all he had done and stood in the gap so many times for the Children of Israel, he struck out in anger and he received the judgment.

If we can't forgive, it says in the Bible, we will be tormented. Our anger , the godly anger is always directed towards the enemy, you see. "Be angry and sin not." "Don't let the sun go down upon your wrath when it comes to people , when it comes to your brothers and sisters." So we can't have the frustration that comes from the fear of man. We have to go to that place , we have to find our place alone with God , face those fears. We will constantly have to deal with that. As long as there are men there will be a temptation to fear man or to have too much respect for our relationship with them as opposed to our relationship with God. When we start having awe with that relationship then that's when God counts it as idolatry. Confusion will direct us rather than the Word of the Lord.

7. Worship. Jeremiah 7:2 says, "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the LORD!'" There are a lot of places you can see in the Word of God where you can see where worship and prophecy are tied together. Most of the Psalms , psalms mean songs , they were songs that were sung prophetically and written down. Many of those in Hebrew still to this day they can sing. They know the tunes that go with those psalms. They were prophesying in song with the musicians, etc. Elisha called for the musician when the king asked for him to bring a word and through that music it was settled and peaceful and received the Word of the Lord. Worship many times will lead to the prophetic.

8. Intercession. Jeremiah 27:18 But if they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, do not go to Babylon. There are a lot of verses where you could look at the intercession. Intercession isn't only words, but also actions. When Moses stood up on the mountain over the battle and he held his arms up and then Aaron and Hur came and held his arms up , that was intercession. But as far as I know there wasn't any prayer involved. There are other examples where prophets were used to intercede. They did some strange things. I don't really understand what one had to do with the other and yet God used those things to somehow bring from the heavenlies authority on earth to act. So intercession is standing as a bridge between two worlds. Certainly the Word is very important to intercede for our land, but there are many times intercessory acts that need to be done and prophets many times and prophetic people make other people wonder about them. Believe me. Why would you stand up and face the east and the west and the north and the

south and pray at the top of your lungs and why would you carry some of these things out? Why would you back up back to back and then go forward and look out rather than look in? Those are just actions that we do , symbolizing various things, but nevertheless if God is behind it then He will energize that and there are things that the angels are able to accomplish because of the actions of intercessors , prophetic acts will put angels into the battle. Praise God. We have to be willing to do those things , not with pride , not with arrogance. Generally most of those things will humble you anyway.

9. They spoke blessings through the person prophecy. It says that "Simeon came and he spoke blessings over them." Now if you go back and read the prophecy that Simeon spoke, especially over Mary, I mean it really wasn't something I'd want spoken over me. A sword is going to pierce through your heart and there are the words about being rejected, etc. Those aren't really "fun" words. I mean you want to get your money back from that prophet. But it says, "He spoke blessings." Those were blessings because they were from God. They were information and it says, "Mary kept those things in her heart." She kept those things. Those words ministered to her even years later. Those were blessings even though they were hard words to us. You may have to bring a hard word, but you know something, bring it in love , bring it in humility. And sometimes you may even have to bring a word of restoration , the Lord may show you something that is wrong.

It says in Galatians when you "find a brother caught in a fault then restore such a one in a spirit of meekness." The Lord may reveal , I've had many times the Lord reveal to me sins in people's lives that I was either praying for or prophesying for , many times I did not even mention them, but I just began to intercede for that person and whenever the Lord brought it up for me, I prayed for them. Other times I would take them aside or I would talk to them personally and it's never failed that it was true, but you want to do it in a spirit of meekness and restore&mdash; not reprove, but restore. Part of that may be reproof, but generally these things are closely related to the relationship you have with that person. If you have no relationship with that person, then I would say you are called to pray and not confront. Alright? But anyway, he spoke blessings.

10. They were servants to God and to mankind. You know, gifting doesn't insure character. The gifts are received by faith, but character comes by fruit. Fruit is drawn out through service to others. The Lord said, "you can judge prophets by fruit not by giftings." There are many , and there are going to be more , false prophets that have great power and gifts in operation. But the fruit is what you need to look for. The fruit, Jesus said to look for. If I could just tell you how many frustrating relationship I could have cut short if I would have taken Jesus' advice instead of following after those gifts in operation. In a sense that young man of God that followed after the old prophet fell right into that thing. He went after that gift where there was no fruit.

Matthew 23:11 says But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant and whoever exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.

11. Just and devout. It says that Simeon was just and devout. Now I want to just read you this briefly about Zacharias and Elizabeth in Luke 1:6, And they were both righteous before God walking in all the commandments and ordinance of the Lord blameless. Now it doesn't say they were sinless. There was only One that was sinless, but it says about Zacharias and Elizabeth , they were blameless. We need to be like that. That is character. They had integrity. Our job as faithful servants is to be blameless. We may not be able to stop the accuser of the brethren, but we can be sure that the accusations are false. You're going to be accused. It comes with the territory of being a Christian. When you start stepping out prophetically, you're putting yourself out again&emdash; you're standing out , you're singling yourself out. When Jesus said to the man that had the withered hand and the Pharisees were watching to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, right? And Jesus said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath?" He turned to that man and said, "Stand forth." That man had to make a decision, because he knew as soon as he took that step he was singled out. They were all watching Jesus and as soon as Jesus talked to them, they turned their eyes to Him and then Jesus said, "Stand forth." He said, "No, just heal me right where I am." No. He stood forth and then he was healed. We're going to be asked many times to stand forth and we have to be blameless. We have to be just and devout because there will be accusations. I like to say, "Jesus was perfect and they found reason enough to kill him for blasphemy." So I don't have any hope. Neither do you except to trust in the Lord. The accuser is going to come. Just make sure he doesn't have any true ammunition. So at least you can stand and say that they were my accusers and they were false. We don't have to be concerned then because the Holy Spirit will give us the words that we should speak in that hour, right? We need to raise up a whole group of people that are blameless before God and man.

Daniel , I mean they were always coming after Daniel. They had to make up rules. It's the spirit of religion. They just called it government. It's politics. It's no different , same spirit , just one is secular and one comes to church. They couldn't find anything wrong with Daniel so they had to make up these rules. There is not one single sin recorded in the Bible about Daniel. Now we know he sinned. He confessed sins all the time, but that's all you see is he confessing the sins of himself and his father. But there's no sin recorded, why? I guess if you confess them before God catches you in them, He forgets them and throws them as far as the east is from the west. Right? Well you know what I found? This is the honest to goodness truth , I found that when you sin many times if you will confess it quick, you forget it. That's a blessing. Because the devil comes up and tries to bring up the sin and you can't remember it. You say, "What is that?" It's like the devil talking and nothing is coming out. The accuser has lost his voice. Give the devil laryngitis why don't you. Be blameless. Confess your faults one to another. Do it as quickly as possible. And do your best not to sin. Alright? Then you can say as Isaiah 54:17 says, No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD. You know I read that in the King James Version for many, many years and it says, "...every tongue that raises up against you thou shalt condemn..."

I thought that meant God would condemn. Because thou shalt condemn in the King James wasn't clear. When I read it in the New King James in the newer version, it says, "...you do it..." It made a big difference in my life. I was waiting for God to do something He was telling me I could do because I'm His servant. Not condemn the person, but the words because those words come and they hurt. "Sticks and stones will break my bones but names will never hurt me." That's not true. There's power in people's words. There is authority in people's words. There are curses that comes in the air. I was receiving them because I didn't understand I could cast down the words and the authority behind those words because I was blameless. My sins were forgiven. Thank God for "you" instead of "thou." I learned a lot.

1 Peter 1, (15) but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, (16) because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." Now I teach sometimes on the Holy Spirit and I ask people what's His first name? It's "Holy." There is a reason it's called "Holy Spirit" it's because He is holy. Now I'm going to tell you something , you're not going to be very prophetic , you're certainly not going to be accurate , if you don't have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. It's just that He gets grieved so easily when you're not holy as He is holy. As we grow and mature it is our job to be blameless. We'll never be sinless. That means we have to get use to repentance. It has to be a habit. It has to be our friend. Repentance is a weapon. It's a spiritual weapon. It's one of the weapons of our warfare. When we ask forgiveness, we turn. It gets old to keep confessing the same sins. Keep doing it, please. But we need to get over it and move on and mature and go on to new tests that are tougher than the last one. Be blameless. You cannot be holy without a relationship with the Holy Spirit. The best you can be is religious. With a relationship He makes you holy as He manifests through you , as you allow Him to dwell in you and you die to yourself , you become holy because He is holy. We can be blameless. It is attainable. If Zacharias and Elizabeth could do it before the Holy Spirit, we can do it with His help. The Comforter is here. The Counselor is here. Our Teacher is here to show us the way. There is the Voice now that says, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

12. Proper timing. If Simeon had showed up a day late it wouldn't have done Jesus any good. If he had showed up twenty minutes early and said, "Well there's nobody here."

I heard a story. I can't remember who it was , I really can't. But somebody told me this story and they were told to go , God woke them up like 5:00 in the morning and said to go down to the train station and take your guitar and set up at the train station and start playing praise music. They said, "Forget it." and went back to bed. About an hour later He woke them up again , about 6:30 and again about 7:30 so the third time he said, "Alright, alright" so he got his guitar and he went down there. He got down there at about 7:45 and there was nobody there. It was empty. He starts playing his praise music. A little bit after 8:00 the train pulls up and all the guys that had gotten off the shift at whatever business it was or whatever manufacturing plant it was there that had gotten off at 8:00 and they came in at 8:10. The train went out , the doors opened , they all come in and here he is playing his music and the Spirit was there and a bunch of those men got saved that day. It was just a glorious way to start the day, I guess. But later he was saying that he went back to the Lord and asked, "Why did you wake me up at 5:30 when I didn't

need to be there until 8:00?" God said, "Because I knew you wouldn't obey the first three times." If you'll obey you can sleep longer. But timing is everything. If you show up late, somebody could be dead. If Anna had shown up late, she wouldn't have been able to herald those things. It would have been in the paper the next day. What if Simeon had showed up on time and Mary and Joseph didn't come? You see, the timing is very important. When we receive a word, we are required many times to go back to the Lord and find out what His timing is. That's why it is so important to go back and say, "Do you even want me to deliver this, or is this just something between you and me that I need to pray about. I need to interceed." Most of the time you're going to find out that's going to handle it. But then when He says, "No. This has to be delivered." Now you have to go to find out when and how.

One of the main reasons , this is a quote I wrote down from Rick Joyner. I heard him say this and it was just profound. "One of the main reasons we have become dull of hearing as a people is because we have not kept our word , our commitments , we don't do what we say and we don't be where we say we will be. We will be trusted according to the accuracy of our words kept and our ability to keep commitment."

In Proverbs 25:11 it says, A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. It's not only the word, but it's the timing. It fits. Then there's the other side to it. Do we keep our word? If we don't keep our word, how can God trust us with His Word? And you see the timing involved to deliver His Word , we really have become a people that are very slovenly when it comes to giving our word. We say we want to borrow something when we really mean we just want it. We say we're going to be somewhere and we don't show up. We figure that's fine.

I remember one time years ago I was out at the university and I had gotten there for the first part of the meeting of the day of the Indian Conference there and there was a fellow that had been there before me and he had just gotten out , I think he was a retired major or colonel in the Air Force and he was there like twenty minutes early. I got there in time, but nobody else showed up for about an hour. I was talking to him and he was like just really worked up about it. I said, "Well, you just don't understand Indian time yet." Now unless you think I'm being racist, it was an Indian friend of mine that gave me that term because the rest of us have another term for that. It's called "Montana time." But, we joke about that, but God watches that, you see, and He does with servants of the Lord , do we keep our word? Are we where we're supposed to be when we're supposed to be there?

We talk in terms of our group here as disciples. We have a higher calling. When I was younger and in college and I ran a Bible study. It was kind of a discipleship thing. Because of this stronghold here that we have, it has pretty much become national now, but it was here first. We had it first. But I told them right up front. "I'm going to do everything I can to make this wonderful, but we start at this time and then I'm going to lock the door." I could get away with that because we were college kids and we do strange things and well anyway it worked fine. Only one guy missed one meeting and he stood outside and couldn't hear and he knew I wouldn't let him in if he knocked so...that broke that habit fast. You know I actually considered that with this group. We have a

higher standard here, but what the Lord told me is, "What you can inspire you don't have to require." What I am teaching you is to try to require things of yourself. By me not making it a rule, but rather a standard, that way when you are running late you can come because you know in your heart you did everything. We need that because we are adults , we have jobs , we have commitments , so that door needs to be opened. I believe for us to come no matter when. If we can come in we need to be able to come in. Right? It was the same standard back then, but a different way of bringing it. We try to bring that standard , to inspire it rather than require it. So we also try to do our part of starting right on time with something good right from the start so you don't want to miss anything. But you see we are trying , even in that we're trying to teach integrity , and character building because that affects your ministry and your bringing forth of the Word of God. It's very important and yet at the same time , I from my perspective as a leader I need to be able to be flexible to know , to trust you when you are coming and you are doing everything you can and God says, "Yes, you go ahead and come in." Do you see how we are doing it? We're trying to do it with love and at the same time make it available that there is a standard because servants need to have standards , disciples need to have standards. They need to be disciplined, too, because we are trying to teach integrity so our word means something.

1 Samuel 3:19 So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. Now I don't know if Samuel just always spoke the truth, but I think Samuel had such integrity that he always did his best and that even when he didn't God still covered those things. I believe He'll do that for us. If we will have that kind of integrity and that kind of heart and that kind of character I believe that even when we miss it a little bit God will bring it to pass just to cover for us. When Samuel poured oil on David, they maybe still didn't think much of David, but they had respect for Samuel, so therefore they had to receive David. Because Samuel is never wrong. So therefore there has to be something about this kid. When your integrity is to that point, people will see what you do and they will receive the words that you speak and they will receive those you speak over because of your integrity because they know they will know that your words never fall to the ground. It does sometimes matter the person that brings that word. But the reason it matters is because it always matter the integrity of the person that brings that word.

This is another quote from Rick Joyner: "We cannot have the fear of the Lord and at the same time treat covenants and commitments frivolously." This is another standard that we need to hold forth in the body of Christ. That there is responsibility that comes with receiving the word of the Lord. If you want to be in a position where you can be in a personal relationship basis with God , if you want to be in a position where you can receive the counsel of the Lord, then you need to also understand that you are now an ambassador for Him. You are one that stands for Him and so you need to have a standard that others can look to. This is integrity. This is not how you dress. This is not talking about the outward appearance, okay? That may have something to do with it, but what I'm talking about and what's most important is your inward being. Are you able to speak the truth and it will come to pass and are you able to have people trust your word? When you say it does it come to pass? Even when it's not prophecy , when it's you saying it?

One affect the other and as we raise the standard of integrity and character, we will see that we will become more accurate in our prophet walk , more accurate in the words that we speak. This is a desire of God for us to become a people that are above , that are like a city set upon a hill that we don't put that light under the bushel, but that we stand out from the crowd , that we are different , that we are separate , and that our words are trustworthy regardless of whether they come from you or from Him because if they come from Him, but people can't trust your words, they are liable to miss the words that came from Him. You'll share in the judgment.

Let me just go over this list one more time:

- 1 .Humility , You saw how they were humble. There was a humility in even those that received. Mary kept all those things in her heart. Jesus would have never known about this if it wasn't told to Him as He got older.
- 2 .Hearing the Voice of God , They heard it. Simeon did , Anna did and then Mary and Joseph heard it through them and received it.
- 3 .Obeying the Voice of God, Same thing. Simeon obeyed to get there. He obeyed to speak. Anna obeyed to get there. She obeyed to speak. Mary received it and obeyed also by passing it on to her Child.
4. Submitting one to another, Anna had submitted herself all those years in the temple. She came and submitted her ministry to this man who was just walking under that anointing of the Holy Spirit on that particular day. Mary didn't say, "Hey, get your hands off of Him. This is the Messiah." But she also submitted to the blessings and what she really by doing that what she allowed was a generational blessing from a spiritual father and a spiritual mother to be passed to her Son. By submitting one to another.
- 5 .Maturity, Both Simeon and Anna both the prophetess and the prophetic man both had maturity of age so their words were based on a foundation that could be trusted because they had lived and walked.
6. Fear of the Lord, They did not allow the fear of what others would say or because they may not fit in the particular category to stop them from obeying the Lord.
7. Worship, The worship that she was involved in by daily being in the temple, made her prepared at any time.
8. Intercession, The intercession that was given forth was needed.
9. Speaking blessings, The blessings that were spoken through the personal prophecy

10. Servant to God and to mankind, They were servants not only to God, but because they were to God they served mankind.

11. Just and devout, They were just and devout. They were blameless.

12. Proper timing, There was proper timing in the caring out of the ministry.

Amen. Praise God. Praise the Lord.