Quarter Four: *The Gift of Prophecy*
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Lesson 10—Prophetic Authority and Relevance
Wednesday: Organizational Authority
December 2, 2026

- **Last Week:** "Testing the Prophets"
  - Biblical principles to test the authenticity of the prophetic gift

- **This Week:** "Prophetic Authority and Relevance"
  - Those who have authority to speak for God:
    - Authority that Biblical prophets had to speak for God
    - Authority that non-canonical prophets possess to speak for God

Memory Text: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- **1. Sunday:** Mediating God's Authority (Pastor James)
  - Moses' call by God to speak for Him; Moses' reluctance & Aaron's "mouthpiece" position
- **2. Monday:** The Authority of Jesus (SQ)
  - The authority Jesus possesses as Creator, Redeemer, & the Word – Jesus dependance on His Father on this earth
- **3. Tuesday:** Biblical Authority (Pastor John L)
  - The authority of God's Word – whether spoken or reading it; ways that we can reject that authority in our own lives
- **4. Wednesday:** Organizational Authority (Jill)
  - Ways that the prophetic gift assisted the organization & leadership of the church
- **5. Thursday:** Canonical & Non-canonical Prophets (Pastor John D)
  - Prophets who's writing or ministry is not in the Bible / canon of Scripture; the authority of non-canonical prophets (due to inspiration from God, yet still tested by Word of God)
- **6. Friday:** Speaking with Authority (Pastor John L)
  - EGW as a post-biblical, non-canonical prophet: her authority & importance of still holding the Bible as our authority of faith & practice

Wednesday: Organizational Authority

Hos 12:13; Judges 4:4 – 8; 2 Chron 20:14 – 17; Ex 12:1 – 3; Deut 1:9 – 16; Acts 6:1 – 7; 13:1, 2; 1 Cor 5:1 – 5; 1 Cor 7:10 – 16; Titus 1:5; Mark 16:15

- Organizational Authority:
  - How God uses the prophetic gift to assist with the organization, leadership, direction, doctrinal integrity, and personal piety & godliness of His church

- The prophetic gift doesn't replace God's authority or the authority of Scripture
  - Rather, God exercises His authority thru the prophetic gift, to help His people faithfully live out His will together.

- Need with God's people: both OT & NT
    - **Children of Israel**
        - Out from Egypt: millions of slaves
            - Disorganized; ill-equipped for battle
            - An oppressed people
            - Need direction, essentials like food, water, system of beliefs
        - Did they need a prophetic voice?

    - **Apostolic Church**
        - 120 in the upper room: Pentecostal sermon – thousands joined the ranks
            - No structure (besides 12 apostles)
            - Growing pains: needed organizational structure
                - Doctrinal integrity – Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
                    - What would new believers be required to believe or do?
                - Personal behavior
                - Evangelism
                - Financial support
        - Did they need a prophetic voice?

7 Roles of the prophetic gift in God's church

- The prophetic gift has real authority: but it is delegated authority
    - The prophet doesn't **own** the authority
    - God gives it
        - The messenger is never greater than the One who sent the message

- **1. The prophetic gift provides guidance & preservation of God's people**
    - Hos 12:13 – "By a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet he was preserved."
        - God worked through Moses, His prophet
            - God guided His people out of Egypt
            - God preserved His people

- **2. The prophetic gift gives direction in times of crisis**
    - Jahaziel, operating as a prophet, advised Judah & Judah's king (Jehoshaphat)
        - Don't go to war: stand still & watch God work
        - 2 Chron 20:14 – 17

    - Deborah, operating as a prophetess & judge of Israel, advised Barak & the people
        - Go to war: I will be with you
        - Judges 4:4 – 8

- **3. The prophetic gift creates an organizational structure for God's people**
    - God can use the prophetic gift to provide direction for the organization & leadership of His people.
        - Organization is not evidence of a lack of spirituality
            - Spirit leads people in order, not disorder
        - Sometimes, we falsely think:
            - Spirit led = spontaneous
            - Organized = institutional
    - **OT:** Moses, as a prophet, creating organizational structure & leadership for Israelites

        - Deut 1:9 – 18
        - Leaders for the tribes: of thousands, hundreds, fifties, tens
            - Management structure: officers, directors, managers, supervisors

    - **NT Church**: Apostles as God's leaders / prophets creating organizational structure & leadership for the early Christian church
        - Dispute in early church about food distribution for widows
            - Acts 6:1 – 7
        - Dispute between Hebrews & Hellenists
            - Hebrews = Jewish Christians who grew up in Palestine & spoke Aramaic
                - Peter, James John
            - Hellenist = Jewish Christians from outside Palestine & spoke Greek (Greco-Roman Jewish converts)
                - Paul (Tarsus), Barnabus (Cyprus)

        - Organization needed: deacons appointed
            - All Greek names appointed – correct the nepotism going on – or perceived unfairness

    - Titus 1:5 – Paul's counsel to Titus to organize the churches in Crete & appoint elders in different cities
        - Organizational structure
        - Paul's call as a prophet (Acts 13:1, listed as a prophet & teacher)

- **4. The prophetic gift addresses sin & preserves the integrity of God's people**
    - OT: Nathan confronting David
        - **Nathan challenges sin**
        - Thou art the man

    - NT: Paul's counsel as an apostle & prophet to correct sin in the church
        - 1 Cor 5:1 – 5 –
        - 1 Cor 7:10 – 16 – Paul's counsel to the married & unequally yoked in the church

- **5. The prophetic gift advises on religious observances in the church**
    - Zechariah 7: Zechariah uses his prophetic gift to correct the religious observances of the returned exiles
        - Delegation asks if they should continue mourning & fasting for the destroyed temple
        - Zech 7:5 – "…when you fasted & mourned… during those 70 years, did you really fast for Me—for Me?"
            - **Zechariah challenges empty ritual**

    - Ex 12:1 – 3 – "Now the LORD spoke to Moses & Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, (2) 'This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you. (3) Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: "On the 10th of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a house-hold."""
        - **Moses gives instruction on the Passover**
        - Moses & Aaron as God's prophet & mouthpiece – advising the children of Israel on religious observances

- **6. The prophetic gift--& Spirit-led leadership—preserve doctrinal integrity in the church**
    - Acts 15 – Jerusalem council, AD 49
        - Issues at stake in the early Christian Church
            - Do Gentiles need to become Jews in order to become Christians?
                - Is circumcision necessary?
            - Jewish Christians still felt that the ceremonial laws from Judaism needed to be kept as Christians
                - ie, sacrificial offerings prefigured the death of Jesus Christ
                - After He died, those sacrifices were no longer binding
            - Can Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians eat together? (Gal 2)
                - Peter eating with Gentile Christians – until Jews came, then he separated himself

    - Manner matter **wasn't** resolved:
        - One person gave the answer
        - Everyone expected to immediately agree
        - Questions treated as rebellion
        - Leadership avoids difficult discussions
        - The loudest voice wins

    - Instead, how issues **were** resolved:
        - 1. Brought questions to leadership
        - 2. Dialogue & discussion allowed
        - 3. Truly listened
        - 4. Leadership spoke
            - Peter
            - Paul & Silas
            - James – decision from James

    - Good organization doesn't eliminate the need for discussion
        - It provides structure in which disagreement can be processed

- **7. The prophetic gift reveals the future**
    - Amos 3:7 – "Surely the LORD God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets."
        - God reveals the future through His prophets (foretelling)

    - Rev 1:1 – "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servant—things which must shortly take place."
        - God revealed future to John
            - Things which must shortly take place

6 Role of the prophetic gift in God's church

- 1. The prophetic gift provides guidance & preservation of God's people
- 2. The prophetic gift gives direction in times of crisis
- 3. The prophetic gift creates an organizational structure for God's people
- 4. The prophetic gift addresses sin & preserves the integrity of God's people
- 5. The prophetic gift advises on religious observances in the church

- 6. The prophetic gift--& Spirit-led leadership—preserve doctrinal integrity in the church
- 7. The prophetic gift reveals the future