

Title: No limits II – Intro to prophetic
Speaker: André Kruger
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Is the power of the Spirit really necessary?

Without knowing the power of God we won't have faith:

What's at stake: Faith in man or faith in God?

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

- The issue is people's faith.

Without knowing God's power we are easily deceived:

Matthew 22:29 (HCSB) ²⁹ *Jesus answered them, "You are deceived, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God.*

- We will misinterpret the scriptures. We will miss God.
- Know scriptures + God's power. **Word + Spirit.**
- ****The word without the Spirit will cause you to dry up. The Spirit without the Word will cause you to blow up. But the Word with the Spirit will cause us to grow up. We need both!**

Proof: that God is truly among us

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. ²⁵ *And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.**

- God is truly among you! isn't this what we are pursuing? That people will know God is with us.
- The prophetic word is a form of demonstration of the Spirit's power.

Proof: for the outpouring of the Spirit

Acts 2:17-18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.**

- **Proof of the outpouring of the Spirit** on somebody – they shall prophesy. Shall see visions. Shall dream dreams.

What is a prophet?

Exodus 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God.*

- Aaron your brother shall be your prophet...

****A prophet is one who speaks for another, or one who lends his voice to another.**

1 Peter 4:11 (HCSB) ¹¹ *If anyone speaks, his speech should be, like the oracles of God.*

The gifts of Jesus: for the building up and strengthening His church

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the*

knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

- **Jesus appoints.** Cannot appoint ourselves in these ministry gifts.
- **Till when?** Church comes to unity of the faith... not yet there.

1 Corinthians 14:26 (NIV) ²⁶ *What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*

- **Everyone.** Each believer brings a gift to share. The gift is not for self. The gift is for another.

The primary message? Turn hearts back to the ways and wisdom of God. God is calling His children to Himself.

Not foretelling primarily. **But a calling to Himself.**

Luke 1:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

- A calling back to God. A calling to obedience. A calling to the will of God. Prepare people for the Lord and what God wants to do.

The prophet's role:

*"We usually find the prophets arose as a reaction from God to the course and drift of things amongst His people; a call back, a re-declaration, a re-pronouncement of God's mind, a bringing into clear view again the thoughts of God. **The prophets stood in the midst of the stream** – usually a fast-rushing stream – like a rock; the course of things broke over them. They challenged and resisted that course, and their presence in the midst of the stream represented God's mind against the prevailing course of things. In the Old testament, the prophet usually came into ministry at a time when things were spiritually bad and anything but according to the Divine mind; the state was evil, things were confused, mixed, chaotic; there was much deception and falsehood." T Austin Sparks.*

Moses: Deuteronomy 30:2 (NKJV) ² *and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul...*

1 Samuel 7:3 (NKJV) ³ *Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."*

Isaiah 44:22 (NKJV) *Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."*

Ezekiel 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations."*

Hosea 6:1 (NKJV) ¹ *Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.*

Joel 2:12 (NKJV) ¹² *"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, ..."*

Amos 5:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: "Seek Me and live;*

Zechariah 1:3 (NKJV) ³ *Therefore say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Return to Me," says the LORD of hosts, "and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts.*

Malachi 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts.*

2 Kings 17:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Yet the LORD testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets."

Yet often we focus on the minor things – personal prophecy & foretelling. Primarily cause people to turn to Christ.

***Telling the people what they want to hear at the expense of what they need to hear weakens the church. We should not seek the gifts and manifestations to the neglect of pursuing the character of God.**

New Testament prophecy: what is edification, exhortation and comfort?

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV) ³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.

John the Baptist:

Luke 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.

Pointing people to God and to return to Him is comforting.

We need the prophetic word:

1. **For raising up a vast army** – the prophetic word is **not primarily for foretelling**, but also for **forth telling or speaking**. *Speaking something into being.*

Ezekiel 37:9 ⁹ Then he said to me, "**Prophecy to the breath**; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' " ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

- Through prophecy we speak into being. We release the word and will of God into our environment and into people's lives.

2. **For warfare** – the promises God gives us strength for difficult times.

1 Timothy 1:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.

- We do battle by the prophecies / promises God has given us.
- We come to know the specific will of God for our lives, ministry and future.

3. Impartation of spiritual gifts

1 Timothy 4:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.