

## **Instructional Guidelines and Reference Materials**

The following Study Guide, **Prophetic Maturation**, has been prepared especially for you by Jim W. Goll. They are tailor made for your individual, small group, or Training Center needs in mind. At the end of each lesson, there are Reflection Questions to help you in your review of the materials you have studied. In a back section of this Study Guide, you find the Answers to the Reflection Questions to aid you in your learning.

Ministry to the Nations also has for purchase the audio cassettes that match up with each lesson. Use this Study Guide alone, or for even more thorough understanding, order the corresponding cassette messages from MTTN's Resource Center. Video recordings are also available on some of these selected topics.

These twelve lessons correspond to the following tape audio cassette messages:

1. Called Into Character
2. From Character To Commissioning
3. Seizing Your Prophetic Destiny # 1
4. Seizing Your Prophetic Destiny # 2
5. The Cross: The Prophetic Lifestyle
6. Prophetic Development: Elevator Or Staircase
7. The Pits and the Pinnacles Of Prophetic Ministry
8. Four Levels Of Prophetic Ministry
9. Varieties of Prophetic Anointing
10. The Seer and The Prophet: Similarities and Differences
11. Women In The Prophetic
12. Prophetic and Governmental: Comrades Or Competitors
13. Prophetic and Governmental: Co-operating Together
14. The Anatomy Of A Prophetic Word

You may place orders for materials from MTTN's Resource Center by calling 615-365-4401 from 9 am - 4 PM Central Standard Time or Fax us at 615-365-4408 with your order. You may mail your orders or communications to us at Ministry to the Nations, P. O. Box 338, Antioch, TN 37011-0338. An order sheet is enclosed at the back of this manual for your assistance. Also, look at MTTN's Web Page on the Internet at **[www.ministrytothenations.org](http://www.ministrytothenations.org)**

If you have benefited from this Study Guide, note that MTTN offers other complete Study Guides by Jim W. Goll for your use. Besides this series

on **Blue Prints for Prayer**, we also have a series on **Equipping in the Prophetic** and **Empowered Ministry Training**. May you be equipped to do the works of Christ and release the fragrance of His presence wherever you go.

# Preface: Prophetic Maturation

by Jim W. Goll

One of my dear friends and co-ministers, David Ravenhill, authored a book by the witty title ***For God's Sake: Grow Up!*** Perhaps that is the "Word of the Lord" for those of us who have been swimming in the waters of the prophetic presence and gifting for the last few or several years. Let's press on! As Mike Bickle, Director of Friends of the Bridegroom aptly declares, "*It's time for us to be Growing in the Prophetic!*" Yes, let's build on the foundation laid from the other Study Guides from this series **Equipping in the Prophetic: Prophetic Foundations, Experiencing Dreams and Visions, and Understanding Supernatural Encounters** and let us press on to maturity!

Some time ago, my dear wife, Michal Ann, received a dream where she saw herself and others all lined up in a straight line. A "recruiter" came along and asked for volunteers for "*Fathers and Mothers of the Prophetic*" to step forward. In this dream, my wife did not realize that everyone else took a giant step backwards and it made it appear that she had stepped forward. She had volunteered and she didn't even know it! Then, as the dream continued, a wind came behind her and propelled her forward right into the fore ground. I have a word for you, "*You don't volunteer - you get drafted!*"

Well, just like this dream portrayed, the Holy Spirit is searching for those who will grow up and become some of the mentors - "*Fathers and Mothers*" - of the prophetic and help the next generation learn from our journey into **Prophetic Maturation**. Let's help this next generation of "*young eagles*" learn how to fly and stay alive in the process!

This Study Guide has some tremendous vintage material in it. It contains teaching and understanding that I have gleaned from over 25 years of walking this path. I have drawn on the teachings of some of my friendships and peers from over the years such as Michael Sullivant and Mike Bickle of Metro Christian Fellowship, John Paul Jackson of Streams Ministries, author and teacher David Ravenhill, Dr. Bill Hammon of Christian International and many others. But a lot of this material comes from the trenches of the "**School of Hard Knocks.**" Any of you ever attended that graduate school? Well, I have and that is where many of these teachings have been born!

In this unique Study Guide, I will point out for the student various pitfalls to avoid, tips that could excelerate your learning curve, relational

dynamics that could save your life, and the character that is necessary to carry the gift. Remember: Gifts are given - but character is grown! Emphasis is given on character development and the necessity of embracing the cross of Jesus.

This Guide is divided into three sections - each laying building blocks one on top of the other. Section One is titled: **Calling and Training for Ministry**. Section Two exposes us to various **Models of Prophetic Ministry**. The final Section Three takes deeper into waters that few teach on: **Relational Dynamics of the Prophetic and Church Government**. Again, there are Reflection Questions at the end of each lesson with the corresponding Answers at the back of the manual.

It is a joy of my life to put together these concepts and present them to you in this format. I trust that you will be further equipped with the spirit of understanding, wisdom and revelation of our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Remember - our goal is not to be one of the most famous prophets that ever lived - a violent shaker of nations - one of the two witnesses from the Book of Revelations or even one who could "call down fire!"

**Our goal is to please the Lord in all that we do!** Oh, to be transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Yes, to release His life through ours! That is what **Prophetic Maturation** is all about - helps in walking into maturity in Christ.

May the Lord bless you as you devour the lessons contained within this manual. Who knows, like in my wife's dream, maybe a wind will even hit you in the middle of your back and propel you forward as a new volunteer

(I mean draftee) as a mentor for others in a road less traveled.

**Grace to You!**

**Jim W. Goll**

# Prophetic Maturation

## Lesson One

### **Called, Trained and Commissioned:** Progressive Steps in Nurturing the Prophetic Call<sup>1</sup>

by James W. Goll

As in any office or ministry gift, three principles apply: **called, trained and commissioned**. These steps are not just a “one time” series of events, but are often repeated several times in the life of the individual. In this lesson, we will consider these progressive steps in reference to “nurturing the prophetic call.”

#### **I. THE PROPHETIC CALL**

##### **A. What is “The Prophetic Call”?**

As you compare scriptural examples, as well as contemporary life experiences, you find a variety of times, ways and styles that people have been called into prophetic ministry. Some seem to be “born with a gift.” Others are “born-again with a gift” or “baptized-in-the-Spirit with a gift.” Still other callings are gradual and emerge later in life even though the person was sovereignly called before he was ever born.

1. Samuel’s call (as a child) - I Sam. 3:1-15.
2. Elisha’s call (as a man) while plowing a field – I Ki. 19:19-21.
3. Jeremiah’s call (before he was conceived) - Jer. 1:5.
4. Amos’ call to prophesy (while he was a herdsman and grower of figs) Amos 1:1; 7:12-14.
5. John the Baptist’s call (in the womb) - Lk. 1:41.

##### **B. How do I Know if I am Called?**

1. Supernatural events, visitation of angels/Jesus - Isa. 6:1; Jer. 1:4; I Sam. 3:1-14.

2. People will begin to tell you - I Sam. 3:20.
3. Leadership will recognize it - Prov. 18:16.
4. May receive an initial prophecy about the future - i.e. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Samuel, or Zechariah.
5. Gifts of the Spirit through others might be used to call you forth - Acts 13:1-3; II Tim. 1:6.
6. God will confirm His Word - II Cor. 13:1.
7. Fruit will begin to be born - Mk. 16:20.

## II. THE PROPHETIC TRAINING

This is a vital issue today. There has been a release of modern models of the pastor, teacher, and evangelist. There has been teaching concerning the apostolic builder and his role. But in the past there has been poor “father modeling” for those desiring to nurture the prophetic call. Step-by-step we will trust the Lord to release greater and better tools for equipping in this area of ministry as well. (See the lesson in this set of Study Guides entitled *Prophetic Development: The Elevator or the Staircase.*)

### A. How Spiritual Gifts are Received

It is often stated “gifts are given and fruit is grown.” How are gifts given, received and how does increase come?

1. Sovereignty
 

God can move to give grace, ministries and offices entirely as He desires, dealing little or nothing with the condition of the person. This sovereign act of gifting has occurred often in Scriptures and in church history. Acts 2:1-4; 4:32; 10:44, etc.
2. Laying on of hands
  - a. Moses with Joshua - Dt. 34:9.
  - b. Church at Antioch with Barnabas and Saul (Paul) - Acts 13:1-3.
  - c. The seven (Stephen, Phillip, etc.) - Acts 6:3-6.
  - d. Ananias and Paul - Acts 9:17.
  - e. A warning given. “*Do not be hasty...*” - I Tim. 5:22 (NIV).
3. Mentoring relationships
  - a. Elijah with Elisha
    - i. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha - I Ki. 19:15-16.
    - ii. Elijah did so by casting his mantle upon him - I Ki.19:19.
    - iii. Elisha then became Elijah’s servant - I Ki. 19:21.

- iv. After years of training (show and tell), and tests of endurance, Elisha watched while Elijah went into heaven - II Ki. 2:1-12.
  - v. Then Elisha took Elijah's mantle and began his own ministry - II Ki. 2:1-12.
  - b. Jesus and the Twelve
    - i. Jesus called them and passed on His authority - Lk. 10:1-11.
    - ii. After their ministry they reported their success - Lk. 10:17.
    - iii. The process worked and was effective!
  - c. Paul with Timothy
    - i. I Tim. 4:14, *Do not neglect your gift...given...when the...elders laid their hands on you.* (NIV)
    - ii. II Tim. 1:6, *...rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands...* (RSV)
4. Developing greater accuracy  
 Gifts come from God; however, we can develop, mature, and sensitize them to greater accuracy over time - Heb. 5:14. This occurs through:
- a. Prayer
  - b. Fasting
  - c. Self-restraint
  - d. Increasing faith
  - e. Greater character
  - f. Accurate doctrine
5. Gifts of grace!  
 Self-righteousness is a major hindrance to gift development. Gifts are gifts! They do not prove how much God loves the prophet, but how much God loves and wants to bless the people!

## B. **Character Development - Fruit that is Grown**

There are many excruciating lessons in character development. God doesn't want us to give a message only - He wants us to become a living word. Because the revelatory gifted person is extra-sensitive, the area of character development must be given special attention. The cross of Christ will eventually become the love of any true prophetic person.

Some points to consider:

1. Seldom is character seen until pressures and trials come. At such times gifts may "dry up" and even disappear for a

season as the pruning of the Lord takes place in the character of the gifted vessel.

2. As character matures, it greatly enhances the individual and their gift.
3. Because of its invisible nature, it can be harder to gauge the progress and growth of character than of a grace-gift from God.
4. Motives are the hardest to recognize. A true word can be given with an impure motive of self-promotion which is not detected by the one giving the word. Let's be kind and not judgmental with each other!
5. In time, you come to understand not to sacrifice long-term goals in order to achieve short-term success.
6. Learn to value "team life." Realize that you need others to help "watch out" for you, your family, and your priorities. Become accountable in motives, finances, morality and other major areas of natural and spiritual life.
7. In character development you learn to give honor to others and not want their position, title, function, prestige, or gifting. You learn that "before honor comes humility."
  
8. You learn to overcome jealousy and wait on His timing in your life.
  - a. The Lord spoke to Jeremiah about 627 B.C. (13th year of Josiah); however, it was not until 612 B.C. that he began to prophesy. He waited 15 years.
  - b. In the year 611 B.C., 16 years after his visitation by the Lord, certain tablets of the Law were found. Yet, the king did not consult Jeremiah about their meaning, but consulted the prophetess Huldah.
9. Learn to give mercy and grace to others as they, also, are "Christians under construction." This, in turn, sows a crop of mercy-understanding from others to you.
10. Give all glory, honor, and praise to the Lord. Your weaknesses will glare in front of you, driving you into greater intimacies with the Lord. Embrace the Cross, refuse the temporal adulations of men, and revel in His unconditional love!

### **C. The Prophet and "the Word"**

1. You must come to a place where you are addicted to the "written word" (Scriptures) and the "Living Word" (Jesus). Many revelatory gifted people primarily use the Scriptures

as their source of validating their latest “revelation.” Many do not “study to show themselves approved,” or improperly stretch the Scriptures to fit their latest dream or vision, etc.

2. Always maintain a devotional place of simply reading and meditating on the Scriptures for your own life! Feed yourself first! Don’t misplace ministry for devotion. Be with Him!  
Be more impressed with the word you stir up in your heart than the word coming through your mouth.
3. Stick with the “main and plain” things of Scripture. Be of sound doctrine in the basics, such as: the virgin birth, the Cross, the resurrection of the dead, the second coming of Christ, being “born again,” inspiration of the Scriptures, etc. Don’t accept just any new twist to the age-old foundational beliefs of the historic church.
4. Without proper biblical doctrine, your interpretation of revelation might be tainted. Seek out proper historical, contextual understanding of Scriptures, then let the Holy Spirit bring you into a current day application.
5. Learn the symbols and types of the Old Testament as used in the New Testament to precisely interpret contemporary revelatory experiences.
6. Use the written to judge the spoken.
7. All revelatory gifted people should couple themselves together with teachers and pastors that are possibly more systematically trained in Scriptures and theology for balance, protection, and enhancement.
8. Walk in both mental and spiritual preparedness through the regular exercise of the spiritual disciplines.

#### **D. Wisdom Ways of Administration**

There is so much to learn. We must seek the Lord to forge together in our lives the Spirit, character, and the Word. The extra ingredient that helps to add greater authority upon us is wisdom. It takes time and the lessons of life to gain it.

1. Mature in your presentation. The presentation of the revelation is as important as the revelation itself. (See the lesson on *Anatomy of a Prophetic Word* in this set of Study Guides, as well as those on *Wisdom in Handling Revelation* in the set entitled *Experiencing Dreams and Visions*).
  - a. Revelation
  - b. Interpretation
  - c. Application
  - d. Timing

2. The prophetic person must learn to overcome fears and failures of the past. These will influence him less and less as he matures.
  - a. Fear from past hurts
  - b. Fear from past deceptions
  - c. Fear from past corruptions
  - d. Fear from past sins
  - e. Fear from past control of men
3. The greatest hindrances to reception or delivery of revelation are:
  - a. Emotion
  - b. Opinion
  - c. Debate
4. Tips for presentation. (See *Receiving and Releasing the Gift of Prophecy* in the Study Guide *Prophetic Foundations*.)
  - a. Attempt to talk in plain, understandable language (unless it's a parable or a riddle).
  - b. You don't have to authenticate your word with, "Thus saith the Lord."
  - c. If speaking congregationally, speak distinctly and loud enough to be heard.
  - d. Write out the word and hold it, but pray over it.
  - e. Write it out and submit it to others.
  - f. Let others incorporate the word according to their discretion.
  - g. Be open to singing the word.
  - h. Be open to acting it out.
5. Honor authority at all times! Learn the value of holding your tongue. Practice self-restraint and the fruits of the Spirit called patience and self-control.
6. Never use revelation as a tool of gossip, undermining someone, or destruction. We are called to edify, exhort, and comfort!
  
7. You don't have to state all that you know! (A fool opens wide his mouth and says all he knows!) Avoid being cocky, coy, prideful and arrogant. Someone might "know something" on you! Learn to keep a word until its proper time, avoiding premature release and confusion.
8. Learn the lessons of a "voice that can be heard." Why is one person "heard" and not another?
  - a. God's relational joining.

- b. The principle of confirmation.
  - c. Encouragement and increase of faith.
  - d. A test - of humility and overcoming jealousy.
  - e. Realize that there is a difference between revelation and authority.
9. Learn the sphere of authority or influence the Holy Spirit gives you: family, small group, congregational, translocal, city, state, regional, national, international, etc.
10. Learn how prophetic authority comes:
- a. God grants it.
  - b. People (leadership) recognize it.
  - c. Greater consistency and accuracy = greater trustworthiness = greater authority.
  - d. Greater detail = greater authority.
  - e. Authority is not determined as much by the quantity of revelations as it is the impact and result of them.

### **III. COMMISSIONED**

In life and ministry there can be many progressive releases and commissionings. We are called, and we continue to be called. We are trained, and we continue to be trained. We are “sent out” and we are brought back again to be re-trained, re-tooled, and re-envisioned - so that we can be re-commissioned with fresh purpose and power all over again.

*I Samuel 3:19-21 - Thus Samuel grew and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fail. And all of Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord. And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, because the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*

#### **A. Signs of a Prophetic Commissioning**

- 1. Only God can grant it.
- 2. God backs up the words - they do not fail.
- 3. People recognize his power, accuracy, and consistency.
- 4. The Lord might appear to him through various means.
- 5. The word of the Lord comes to him consistently.

## B. **Going Forth**

1. Go forth in teams. Remember, Jesus sent out His disciples two by two.
2. Relate to a team for correction, adjustment, encouragement, confirmation, and friendship.
3. Don't alienate yourself (a prophetic tendency).
4. Go forth with assurance that God is with you. Rejoice and "do the stuff."
5. Call forth for intercessory covering on your many ventures.
6. Realize that you will wear different "hats" or "shoes" for different cities, nations, time periods or events. Be flexible, but stay in your strength.
7. Report back home. Remember that you are a natural person. Value and take time for everyday living.

## **Reflective Questions # 1 Called, Trained And Commissioned**

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. The three principle steps that apply to the prophetic ministry are being  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name three ways gifts are given and received.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_
3. In developing character you learn to give honor to others, not covet their...?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

### **MULTI-CHOICE**

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| A. Sacrifices | C. Living words   |
| B. Humility   | D. Impure motives |

**FROM THE LIST ABOVE, ANSWER THE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS:**

4. A principle of the prophetic all must learn, is before Honor comes \_\_\_\_\_.
5. True words can be given with \_\_\_\_\_ of self promotion.

### **TRUE OR FALSE**

6. The greatest hindrances to reception or delivery of revelation is administration.
7. Never use revelation as a tool to elevate oneself.
8. Without proper biblical doctrine, your interpretation may be tainted.

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION**

9. Write out Proverbs 18: 16 and Mark 16: 20 and memorize.

10. What was the primary point you learned from this lesson?

*Turn to the back of this book for the answers to these questions*

### *Appendix 1*

## **10 M's for Maturing and Maintaining Manhood and Ministry Determining Prophetic Ministers True/False Status<sup>2</sup>**

by Bill Hamon

### **1. MANHOOD**

Gen. 1:26-27 God makes a man before manifesting mighty ministry.  
Rom. 8:29 Man - apart from position, message or ministry.  
Heb. 2:6, 10 Per-son-al-ity = evaluating person not performance.  
I Tim. 2:5 Jesus - manhood 30 years; ministry 3 1/2 years; 10:1 ratio.

### **2. MINISTRY**

II Cor. 6:3 No offense to ministry; I Cor. 2:4-5 - power and demonstration.  
Mt. 7:15-21 By their fruits you shall know them - anointing and results.  
Dt. 18:22 Prophecies or preaching productive - proven, pure, positive.

### **3. MESSAGE**

Eph. 4:15 Speak the truth in love; present - truth and life-giving.  
I Tim 4:2 Message balanced, scriptural, doctrinally and spiritually right.  
Mk. 16:20 God confirms His Word - not person, pride, or reputation.

#### **4. MATURITY**

- Jas. 3:17 Attitude right; mature in human relations; heavenly wisdom.
- Gal. 5:22 Fruit of the Spirit, Christ-like character, dependable and steadfast (Heb. 5:14).
- I Cor. 13 Not childish; biblically knowledgeable and mature - not a novice.

#### **5. MARRIAGE**

- I Tim. 3:2,5 Scripturally in order; personal family vs. God's family.
- I Pet. 3:1,7 Priorities straight - God first; wife and family next; then ministry.
- Eph. 5:22-23 Marriage to exemplify relationship of Christ and His Church.

#### **6. METHODS**

- Ti. 1:16 Rigidly righteous, ethical, honest, integrity - upright.
- Rom. 1:18 Not manipulating or deceptive, doesn't speak "evangelistically".
- Rom. 3:7-8 Good end results do not justify unscriptural methods.

#### **7. MANNERS**

- Ti. 1:7;31-2 Unselfish, polite, kind, gentleman or lady, discreet.
- Eph. 4:29; 5:4 Proper speech and communication in words and mannerisms.

#### **8. MONEY**

- I Tim. 3:6 *Craving wealth and resorting to ignoble and dishonest methods. (Amp.)*
- I Tim. 6:5-17 Love of money and materialism destroys (i.e. Achan) - Lk. 12:15.

#### **9. MORALITY**

- I Cor. 6:9-18 Virtuous, pure and proper relationships; Col. 3:5.
- Eph. 5:3 Biblical sexual purity in attitude and action; I Cor. 5:11.
- Mt. 5:28 Wrong thoughts of desire to do - without opportunity to act.

## 10. MOTIVE

- Mt. 6:1            To serve or to be seen? Fulfill personal drive or  
God's desire?
- I Cor. 16:15      True motivation? To minister or be a minister?
- Prov. 16:2        To herald the truth or just to be heard by man?
- I Cor. 13:1-3     Motivated by God's love or lust for power, fame, name,