

GateCity Church

For The City: Stewarding Prophetic Destiny Part 2

Hazen Stevens - February 11, 2024

I. Introduction

A. Last week and this week, I am sharing some of my journey and some prophetic experiences that have formed Hannah's and my sense of calling to plant a GateCity Church location in Atlanta. Many of these words and experiences though personal to us, could also apply to many of you and the wider Church in our city. Further, as I share these prophetic words, I want to use this as an opportunity to disciple our congregation in healthy stewardship of the prophetic ministry. Today we will continue building upon the principles of 'Stewarding Prophetic Destiny'.

B. Review from Last Week

1. Principle 1: **God has a larger prophetic story for us to participate in.** God has prophetic dreams over individuals, families, cities, and nations. If we ask Him, he will reveal to us both from the word and through the prophetic ministry his intentions so we can agree in prayer and action. God has a larger prophetic story that He longs for His people to participate in. This story always jives with the Bible.
 - a) John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. **Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**
2. Principle 2: **We each have smaller personal journeys of life and spiritual formation we must faithfully walk out.** This smaller story is informed by the imperatives of scripture and walked out through intimate fellowship with God as He conforms us to the image of Christ.
 - a) Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom **I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,**
3. Principle 3: **We are meant to attend to our spiritual and life formation so we can contribute healthily to fulfilling our part in the larger prophetic story.** From the place of appropriate attention to our spiritual and life formation into the image of Christ, we then 'join for the sake of others' in fulfilling our part in the larger prophetic vision. Paul in Ephesus and Nehemiah serve as New Testament examples of this.
 - a) Nehemiah 1:3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."⁴ When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven...I was cupbearer to the king. Ch2:4 The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, ⁵ and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my ancestors are buried so that I can rebuild it."

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- b) **Acts 20:34** Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. **35** I have shown you in every way, by **laboring like this, that you must support the weak**. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' ... Acts 20:**22** And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, **23** except **that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.** **24** But **none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,** so that I may finish my [d]race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**
- c) Acts 19:11 **11** Now **God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,** **12** so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them
- C. **Healthy Characteristics of Community for Stewarding the Prophetic:** We are led by Biblical conviction and the Holy Spirit, not the prophetic gifts, but prophetic ministry can give us courage, specific direction, and at times needed clarity/strategy (especially when God's leading is counterintuitive and requires great faith). We see this all the time in the life in the ministry of Jesus and the Apostles. However, prophecy is not a substitute for an intimate daily walk, leading a responsible formed life, or biblical imperatives. **Appropriate stewardship of "prophetic destiny" should deepen us in the fundamental commitments of the Christian life.** When the qualities below are present in the lives of individuals and the life of the community, the prophetic ministry is a blessing!
 - 1. Lifestyle of continuous prayerful conversation with God. (Intimacy)
 - a) John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you[b] will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.
 - b) 1 These 5:16 Rejoice always, **17 pray without ceasing,** **18** in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**19** Do not quench the Spirit. **20 Do not despise prophecies.**
 - 2. Long-term commitments to healthy community life.
 - a) Open and Vulnerable Hearts
 - (1) 1 Cor 5:7 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our hearts is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections. Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open.
 - b) Accountable Relationships

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- (1) James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
 - (2) Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
 - c) Walking in Discernment
 - (1) Phil. 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
 3. Dedication to the Word as the guide for the Christian life
 - a) 2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 4. A Focus on Serving Others with Spiritual Gifts
 - a) 1 Corinthians 14:**12** Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, *let it be* for the [e]edification of the church *that* you seek to excel.
 - b) 1 Cor 14:**29** Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. **30** But if *anything* is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. **31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.** **32** And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.
 5. Humility
 - a) 1 Cor 13:9 “**9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part,”
 - b) Phil **2** Therefore if *there is* any [a]consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, **2** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. **3** *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others.
- II. Close: Sharing Several Prophetic Words