How to be a Modern-Day Prophet

You may have heard the exciting "word" that "all God's people can prophecy".



Along with Scripture verses such as Moses saying "I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets" (Numbers 11:29) – and Paul's words "I wish that all of you might speak in languages, but all the more that you may prophesy" (1 Cor 14:5) or "For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged." (1 Cor 14:31).

"But I can't afford to attend an official "School of the Prophets". – some of these charge \$5,000 US (and I want to be a Platinum level prophet, not a Bronze level)"

Good news. For a limited time only, we have a special offer. Just as you can obtain "cheat codes" to beat a video game, or a book that is "The Idiot's Guide to (topic)", so you can now offer you an "inside peek" into some of the key strategies – at no cost.

"OK. I'm interested, how do I get started?"

Learn the lingo. Here are some basic phrases you should memorize.



There will be a: breakthrough, activation, birthing, release, alignment or re-alignment, and / or a restoration of what the enemy stole.

This will happen through a: decree, declaration, agreement, impartation, and / or manifestation. The person will receive a visitation, anointing, mantle, destiny, upgrade, download, favor, increase, promotion, and / or double portion.

Add in images / metaphors from nature: new season, shift / change in atmosphere, fire, water, cloud (of glory), fresh (cause no one likes stale stuff). Bonus points for using nature image / metaphors puled from Scripture, such as: parting the Red Sea, a cloud the size of a man's hand / I hear rain,

"What do I actually prophesy?"

As long as it's positive and affirming, it does not matter. Tell them how much the Lord loves them and how special they are. And how much He feels for their pain. That actually is legit stuff from the Bible – except leave out the searching of the heart and the call to repentance, and focus more on being the supportive and validating Facebook friend. I'm sure you can find some contemporary "worship music" to help you get the right mix of "feeling their pain" and "Jesus is my boyfriend / girlfriend"



For bonus points, supersize it – like a fast food restaurant. They are called to a great destiny, their desires – oops, "vision / dream" is actually "the Lord's desire" – and they will minister to thousands or millions. Receiving a "word" about serving the Lord faithfully in humble circumstances without public recognition is like getting mittens or underwear for Christmas. Sure, it's something we "need", but not what we want. What would you want as a birthday present – another pair of socks / underwear or a pony?

"Can I use props?"



Two words – "wizard's staff" – how cool is that? Except you want to use language and images pulled from the Bible – such as "Aaron's rod" or "Elijah's mantle".

However, if you are creative enough, you can stretch – such as putting on black judge's robes because you are "appointed to the Court of heaven".

"What if people see I'm just speaking vague positive statements?"

You can crank up people's awe and respect for you with a "word of knowledge". It's like catching fish – you throw out a generic problem that almost everyone struggles with, such as: "There is someone here who (needs a breakthrough, is being attacked by the enemy, has a financial need, etc)

Then you see who "bites" or gets hooked – who jumps up and identifies it as a "word for them".

It actually works better to keep it vague, because then people can "fill in" an answer.

For example, "There will be a shift in the atmosphere – and light will break through the clouds"

Anything positive that happens from that point on can then be credited to your "word".

You can also "prophesy the obvious" – "there will be a change in your circumstances".

"Can I make money or gain fame if I start a career as a prophet?"



Of course, how can you prophecy "financial breakthrough" for others without getting in on the cash first? A good place to start is chasing views on YouTube – the goal is 100,000 views (or subscribers) mark – that's when the cash starts rolling in. Keep an eye on what gets you the most views – such as "predicting" what will happen in the next few months.

Once you build up a following, you can start "giving words" at conferences (record and post the most dramatic ones) and write a book. Along the way, build up your resume by attending conferences by the "elite" prophets, so you can claim you received "an impartation" from them.

Your career goal is to get on "the list" (you know the one) and be interviewed on a Christian network television show (where your books and DVDs will be featured). Then you can also "oversee" or "be the covering" for a group of churches, who all "sow into your ministry" with financial offerings.



However, as the Egyptians used to say, "not everyone makes it to the top of the pyramid (scheme)". Even if you do not make a lot of money, there can be other benefits, such as becoming part of a "movement" or a "social media influencer". Suddenly you are the person everyone wants to "follow" and "like" – sort of like teleporting back to high school, but now you are the popular person.

The key to success is to get them to focus on you – not scripture. Tell them "the letter kills" so they view Bible study as "legalism" and instead chase after your "supernatural revelation". Who wants to eat meat and vegetables when they can get a "sugar rush" from your "fresh word"?

"What if the Lord does not give me a word?"

It's that kind of thinking that will stop you from becoming a "youtube prophet". Because the key is "faith" and "imagination". Faith is good, right? Loving with all your mind involves using your imagination, right? So just "step out in faith" and say whatever pops into that pretty head of yours.

As you practice this, you will start to "see visions" and "hear words", and experience all manner of interesting supernatural experiences. Just like a plant, feed it and it grows.

Start looking for signs. What are the chances that you would see the clock show a "2" on the hour hand? Actually, one in 12 – but that's not the point. Soon you will see this pattern everywhere – a pair of socks, two eyes in your head – and you can start obsessing about "what does that mean"?

"But doesn't scripture warn us not to follow our imagination or look for omens?"

That's the kind of thinking that will get you a failing grade in many "prophetic schools of ministry". Instead, focus on "prophetic imagination" and "prophesying by faith".

Technically, if you want to follow the "letter" of scripture, then interpreting omens, practicing divination, predicting fortunes, and casting spells or "decrees" would be an "abomination" to the LORD (Deut 18:9-14). However, when you understand the "physics of heaven", then you realize

If we see a counterfeit [New Age practice] we must test it and find out what it counterfeits so we can reclaim the authentic (Physics of Heaven, p 43)

New Age practices such as spirit guides, trances, meditation, auras, power objects, clairvoyance etc are not really "bad", instead

These actually belong to the church, but they have been stolen and cleverly repackaged ... whenever you see a counterfeit, I hope you ask yourself these questions, "What is this a counterfeit of? What is it's source? How can I have the authentic? (Physics of Heaven, p 49-50)

It's true some may accuse you of heresy, and warn that these are "doctrines of demons", but they are not "prophets" certified by a "School of Prophets". They are not "speaking into your destiny" or "validating your calling" – they are just quoting the actual words or letter" of scripture.

"What if my 'prophetic word' does not happen?"

Do <u>not</u> say you missed it or apologize. Simply say "the prophecy did not come to pass", and then throw out some reasons why the person who received the 'word' is to blame.

For example, tell them "all prophecy is conditional" – and let them ponder which sin, unbelief or disobedience on their part is to blame for the lack of fulfillment.

You could also say "you have to <u>work with</u> a prophecy for it to be fulfilled" – so they will strive harder to make your words come true.

Or use the "dangling carrot" approach of "all prophecy is partial and progressive" – so they find something that fits, or reassure themselves that "it's just not time yet".

Alternately, you can tell them it was a "spiritual" prophecy – so it becomes an abstract metaphor instead of being focused on actual events in their life or the world of facts and logic.

If all else fails, and the "prophet" profession takes a serious hit to its reputation, simply rebrand under another name such as "forerunner". It's kind of a nudge-nudge wink-wink signaling others that you are walking in the footsteps of John the Baptist, the "forerunner" and "the Elijah who was to come" (Math 11:14). Like John, you are prophetically preparing the way for the Lord to return.

"What if my conscience does not let me continue to claim I am a 'prophet'?"

There will be some costs.

You have likely invested a lot of time and energy (and perhaps, finances) into "becoming a prophet". It will be disorienting to let go of such a powerful and unique identity and become a simple sheep.

After realizing how strongly you were caught up in the "prophetic movement", you may start to doubt your own instincts and the trustworthiness of the leaders you admired previously. This pruning is necessary for our maturity – learning the unreliability of following "what feels right" to our heart, and leaders who appeal to our psychological desire for a sense of identity and purpose.

It is embarrassing to tell others we were deceived. They will be confused and disoriented, and may tell us how much they were helped by our encouraging words. The good news is we can still offer encouraging words – but now these will be based on scripture rather than "prophetic revelation".

The good news is this personal crisis will likely trigger the realization that we need to build our foundation on rock rather than sand. We will need to study scripture and search for truth – and learn to "test all things". There is also a rest that comes with letting go of the need to be a "prophet", and becoming a sheep dependent on the Lord - walking in humble obedience in simple daily life activities.

It's worth trading in the "prophetic sugar rush" for a healthier spiritual diet and lifestyle.







Disclaimer

I would like to thank the <u>Babylon Bee</u> for their inspiration and example in using humor and satire to address problems facing believers today. For those who question the use of satire in addressing spiritual issues, I would reference Elijah's response to the "prophets" of his day in 1 Kings 18:25-27.