

ELEMENTS OF PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Prophetic Mantle

CHAPTER 01

The Basics of Prophecy

The Prophetic Mantle

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Acts 2:17 says,

And it will occur in the End Times, says God, that I will pour out from my Spirit onto every kind of person: and your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and your young people will see visions, and your seniors will have dreams.

We have been looking at the subject of ministry mantles in our School of the Supernatural. We have covered quite a lot of material already, but we actually haven't looked at specific mantles that are designed for a particular kind of ministry.

We looked briefly at the teaching mantle but we didn't go into detail. But now I would like to look at the prophetic mantle and we are going to look at it in quite a lot of detail.

Prophecy is Not New

Prophecy is something that has been known amongst mankind from a long time back. You will see it mentioned from way back in the Old Testament. Actually the earliest possible record that we have of prophecy being spoken of is mentioned in the book of Jude.

It seems that Jude was actually quoting from a writing that is not part of the Scripture. There has been a lot of debate as to whether we should even accept the epistle of Jude, because he quoted from a book called the epistle of Enoch.

This is an apocryphal work and contains a lot of false teaching. But Jude spoke about Enoch, the seventh from Adam as having spoken prophecy.

That goes way back to the seventh generation from Adam, before there is really much else taught in the Scripture. But prophecy was already spoken about there.

If we look at the Old Testament, it is known as the law and the prophets. The reason for this is that a very large portion of the Old Testament was in fact written by prophets. This

means that the Prophetic Ministry is something that is rooted in Scripture and has been there for a long time.

Even the New Testament has writings from prophets. In fact the last book of the New Testament, the book of Revelation, is one that is written from an entirely prophetic viewpoint. It was written by the Apostle John when he received prophetic revelation on the Isle of Patmos.

So Prophetic Ministry was never done away with. There are those who like to teach that since the Scripture has arrived we don't need Prophetic Ministry anymore, and therefore it doesn't exist.

But as we saw in the Scripture that I shared on at the beginning, God told us something way back through the prophet Joel. He said that in the End Times, He was going to pour out a fresh move of His Spirit and a fresh revelation of Prophetic Ministry.

He said, "Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, and older people will have dreams."

Dreaming also has a prophetic orientation.

So I want to look first at prophecy, what exactly it is and how it functions. Then we are going to go into a lot of detail in this course on exactly how Prophetic Ministry should function. We will look at how you can also enter in and be used by God, and obtain this very special kind of anointing which we call the prophetic mantle.

What Prophecy Is

Prophecy effectively means to speak under divine inspiration. It can involve revealing something that wasn't known. In fact there was a common term that was used back in Jesus' day already.

We see that when they arrested Jesus, and they were taunting Him and hurting Him before He was actually crucified, it says in Luke 22:64,

And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that struck you?

Their understanding was that a prophet should be able to tell by revelation who was hitting Him, even though He was blindfolded.

So this passage already shows that prophesying has an element of being able to know things that go beyond your senses.

Predicting the Future

Prophecy can involve predicting the future. In fact that is probably one of the most common understandings of the word prophecy or prophesy.

It has become part of our language, to the point where we even call the person who forecasts the weather the weather prophet. So everyone knows what prophet means.

Seeing into the Spiritual Realm

Prophesying also involves seeing into the spiritual realm which is outside of this natural world. For this reason, prophets in the Old Testament were originally known as seers. They could see things.

Today any believer can see spiritually, not only the prophets. We will be looking at this in a bit more detail.

I remember years back reading a book by Mel Tari entitled *Like a Mighty Wind*. This was an account of the revival that took place in Indonesia, where there was a great move of the Spirit of God.

One of the expressions that the believers there used to use was a term called *watching God's television*. I remember Mel Tari saying that they would pray, and you would say to your friend,

"I am just going to pray, and while I pray would you watch God's television and tell me what you see."

So they would reveal what they saw in vision. That is being a seer.

The Purpose of Prophecy

What is the main purpose of prophecy? Unlike what many seem to believe and practice today, it is not meant to exalt the prophet and make them look good.

It is to help a person to open their hearts to receive and to let them know that God cares. It's to take away fear and give them assurance.

Unfortunately today you just need to look around at the so called big name prophets out there. They are all making a big show for everyone, so that they will think how wonderful they are and to glorify themselves.

Prophecy and Power Combined

Prophetic Ministry or prophesying is often accompanied with gifts of power. If you look back in the Old Testament at the prophets Elijah and Elisha, they combined prophecy with the miraculous and the two flowed together.

In 2 Kings 2:21, one of the miracles that was performed by Elisha was this. It says,

And he went out to the spring of waters, and threw salt in there.

The waters were polluted and they couldn't drink it. So Elisha threw salt in there and he said,

Thus says the LORD [Yahweh], I have healed these waters; there will not be from there any more death nor will there be [barren] land.

He prophesied, and as he prophesied he released God's power to perform a miracle.

Jesus often combined gifts of power with the words of prophetic revelation that He had. For example in Matthew 9, we see that when they dropped the man down who was sick with the palsy, Jesus said to him,

"Your sins are forgiven."

Everybody was thinking,

By Les D. Crause

"How dare He do that! Only God can forgive sins."

The Bible says He knew their thoughts. That was a prophetic gift or ability to know their thoughts. Then He turned to them and said,

"I want to show you that the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins."

Then He commanded the man to rise up and walk and performed a miracle.

Mark 3 shares about another occasion where there was a man with a withered hand. It was the Sabbath and they were all thinking,

"I hope He is not going to heal on the Sabbath. That is wrong!"

Jesus once again knew their thoughts and said to the man,

"Come and stand here and stretch forth your hand."

Then Jesus healed him.

So just because you are a prophet doesn't mean that you are limited to only getting prophetic revelation or speaking prophetic words. Very often those very prophetic words release a power which brings about a miracle.

Moses often spoke by prophetic decree and caused things to happen. When he spoke those plagues, each one of them was a prophetic act. It was a prophetic word that said,

"Thus says the Lord."

And there came the plagues.

So prophecy involves a lot more than just speaking.

CHAPTER 02

Old and New Testament Prophets

Chapter 02 - Old and New Testament Prophets

A Specific Group

If we look in the Old Testament we see that God chose specific people as prophets. They became prophets as a result of the anointing of God that came down upon them and gave them divine abilities that other people did not have.

That anointing wasn't necessarily permanent. Most of the time it remained as that prophet walked with God. But if they sinned and turned away from God, His anointing would lift from them.

We see an example of this in King Saul, where the Scripture says the Spirit of God had departed from him.

Saul himself got a prophetic anointing at one stage when he was with Samuel. It says he just lay there on the ground and prophesied and everyone said,

"Is Saul also one of the prophets?"

This was because he had the anointing.

Prophets Could Hear from God

Only prophets could hear directly from God. That is why they were known as seers. They could see the past, the present and the future in the spiritual realm.

A lot of the time these prophets worked specifically with one of the leaders or a king. In this way they could be there for that person, to hear from God and to get wise counsel from God's wisdom.

We often think David must have been very close to the Lord that God spoke to him. But God never spoke to David directly. David actually had a prophet who was permanently appointed to him.

In 2 Samuel 24:11 it says,

For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD [Yahweh] came to the prophet Gad, David's seer

The prophet Gad was David's seer. He was there permanently to see things just for David.

We see Saul before he ever became king. His dad sent him out to look for some donkeys that were lost. He couldn't find them, so he thought,

"If we could just find a seer, I am sure he could tell us where the donkeys are."

That is the kind of thing seers did. So they went hunting for a seer and of course they found Samuel. The first thing Samuel said was,

"Don't worry about the donkeys. They have been found."

However Saul didn't realize that God had a bigger purpose in him meeting Samuel, because God had chosen him to be the king.

Anointing to be King

So we see that one of the functions of the prophets in the Old Testament was to anoint people to the office of king. They did that by pouring oil over their head. That is a symbol of what takes place now when the Holy Spirit comes upon us as God's holy oil as it were.

Samuel anointed Saul to be king. And later on he also anointed David to be king.

In fact from then on you will see that when a king was appointed, there always had to be a prophet present to pour that oil and to anoint them to be king. So that was part of the function of the seer or the prophet.

Receiving Gifts

Seers were often given rewards and gifts for the service that they carried out.

When Saul was busy looking for Samuel, he was a bit worried and he said to the guys who were with him,

"We don't really have anything that we can give to the seer as a gift for helping us."

I believe it was common practice at that time, that if you went to see a seer you rewarded him for his efforts. There was nothing wrong with that, and of course many of the prophets refused that.

For example when Naaman the leper went to Elisha and he sent him to wash himself in the dirty river, he wasn't terribly impressed. But when he came back healed he just wanted to shower Elisha with gifts.

But Elisha said, "No, I won't touch a thing! I don't want anything from you."

Of course his servant Gehazi had another attitude towards that. He ran back and lied to him and said,

"My master says he needs some stuff."

He got some things from Naaman and Elisha was not terribly impressed. He actually spoke judgement on Gehazi and he ended up with the leprosy of Naaman.

Elijah on another occasion actually demanded a gift from someone. In 1 Kings 17:13 he met a woman who was about to bake her last meal for her and her son so that they could die. It says,

Elijah said to her, Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.

He was requiring a gift from her before her miracle could be performed. And when she obeyed and gave that gift, she released a blessing.

In the second part of the prophecy he said that the flour and oil would continue until the rains returned. He said to her,

"Your needs will be provided."

The Scripture often teaches the concept of giving a gift as sowing a seed in order to produce a harvest. To bless

someone who is doing the work of the Lord is often seen by God as a seed that is sown, which can be multiplied back to you again in blessing.

Paul's View of Gifts

Paul also refused such gifts. He boasted and said,

"I am not going to rely on any person except the Lord."

That is kind of the same thing that Elisha said to Naaman when he said,

"I am not going to touch a thing."

However Paul did teach us this in 1 Timothy 5:18. It says,

For the scripture says, You will not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

So often today people take the work of the ministry for granted. The servant of God has to go and live by faith and trust Him for provision. But they are supposed to offer ministry free of charge, without expecting anything in return.

Yes all true ministers will never demand anything in return. But you know it is a common courtesy to show appreciation for somebody making themselves available to minister to you; and to bless them in some way materially.

That person may be suffering financially. They may be going through a time of hardship. And you can actually release the blessing of God in your life, if you would learn to appreciate that ministry.

Today unfortunately many prophets have swung the other way and are using this to make money. They are telling people,

"If you come up and you give us this amount of dollars, we will prophesy over you first. If you give us a lesser amount, we will prophesy over you second. If you don't give any money we are not prophesying over you."

That is totally contrary to the Word of God. It is not to be justified in any way, any more than a prophet trying to make a name for themselves using the gift of God.

But let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Let's appreciate those whom God uses to wait on Him, to speak His word to us and to minister to our needs.

New Testament Prophets

That was in the Old Testament. In the New Testament God still calls people specifically to the Prophetic Office.

In the Old Testament God only selected specific individuals. It wasn't open for anybody. It was not a case of whoever will may come and be a prophet.

No, God was very selective. He was very choosy about whom He selected to be His prophets.

In the New Testament God is still very selective on whom He chooses to the level of what we call Prophetic Office. And not everyone is called to this level of Prophetic Ministry.

Functions of Prophets in Office

The prophet in office carries an authority to make things happen in the earth. This authority is not quite the same as what was given to the Old Testament seer.

The prophet in office doesn't minister to people concerning their needs like the seer did. They are usually more concerned with releasing God's will into the earth.

Prophets in office are still used to anoint God's kings. Who are the kings? They are the apostles that God raises up. In the spirit we always see those called to the Apostolic Office as carrying a royal robe and a crown as kings.

So prophets in office are still required to appoint people to higher level ministry. They are kind of like the major prophets of the Old Testament. They spoke to large groups of people and they prophesied God's purposes into the earth.

They always spoke only to God's people. We see that when the nation of Israel was divided through the Syrian and

Babylonian captivities, they were known as the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom.

During that time God raised up specific prophets for each one of those kingdoms and they prophesied to God's people in each of those kingdoms.

Qualifying for Office

For a person to rise up into Prophetic Office, they have to go through a period of training and they have to qualify. They will go through death experiences, where God will deal with their flesh and bring them totally to the end of their natural abilities.

Only after they have qualified will they be officially appointed by somebody in office, either a prophet or an apostle. I believe that prophets who have qualified for and have been appointed to the Prophetic Office are the only ones in the New Testament that deserved the title of prophet.

They paid a price to get there. And the amazing thing is those who have paid the price usually don't want that title.

They have learned humility. They have been through deaths of not exalting themselves and not relying on themselves, and they are humble enough just to be accepted as God's servants.

When you see someone who is rising up and taking the name prophet, I will guarantee you that they don't even understand what the Prophetic Office is.

Those who have truly been through that training and come to that death experience walk humbly before God. They don't want to be lifted up and exalted. Yet I believe that they alone are the only ones in the New Testament who do qualify for the title prophet.

Gifts Used in Prophetic Ministry

Prophetic Ministry is available to any believer and it involves the use of revelation gifts and the vocal gifts.

There are gifts like the word of knowledge, which shows things concerning the past and the present.

When a prophet gets revelation about somebody concerning what has happened in their past, or what exists in their current circumstances, that comes by the gift of the word of knowledge.

The word of wisdom has a future orientation. This is a gift that is involved in giving predictions of what is to take place in the future, or of what God plans or desires for that person in the future.

The third gift of revelation is the gift of discerning of spirits. This gift reveals the presence of demons, angels and the whole spiritual realm.

All of these are available as gifts of the Spirit which every believer has the right to enter into and experience, not only those who are specifically chosen like the prophets in office.

Prophetic Words

Prophetic utterance is a vehicle for delivering what God reveals. Very often a prophetic word is nothing more than a motivation and an encouragement from the Lord to let you know,

"God understands. He is there with you. He wants to help you and is there to comfort you."

Sometimes the revelation that is given to someone flowing in this ministry is given through a prophetic utterance. So the prophet may speak what was revealed.

They don't necessarily always have to do it through a gift of prophecy. They can just say,

"The Lord shows me this and I see that."

It can also reveal a revelation of God's purpose for the future by the word of wisdom.

When there are demons involved, the prophet will see them and identify them. And where there are angels involved, the prophet will identify and interact with them.

These all lie in the realm of Prophetic Ministry rather than Prophetic Office. So can those in Prophetic Office exercise

these? Certain they can, but that is not their main purpose or function.

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If then we bring all of these functions together into one package as it were, we have the prophetic mantle.

This is like all the other mantles of ministry that we have looked at. It is a mantle that is distinct from normal clothing. That is what a mantle was in the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament there were two kinds of mantle for the prophet. There were also different mantles for some of the other leadership roles like the kings.

But if you look in the original Hebrew at the word mantle, there are two different words that are translated as mantle. The one was a garment that was specifically for those who carried rank. The other one was a garment specifically worn by prophets.

The mantle of the prophet was a very specific mantle. When you saw someone wearing it you knew that the person was a prophet.

According to Strong's, the prophets mantle was made either from fur or from fine material.

This is the kind of mantle that we see was carried by Elijah and that he passed down to Elisha when he left. When Elisha put it on, he received the same anointing that Elijah walked in.

The prophetic mantle is a source of divine ability. This is not necessarily office, although ability usually brings a certain degree of authority. But when it is added to the authority that we already have in the name of Jesus, it becomes very powerful.

Imparting the Prophetic Mantle

The prophetic mantle, like all mantles, must be received by impartation or by prophetic release. There is also a degree of qualification that is needed for it.

Once it is received it must be activated. And like the other mantles, it requires the mantle of power that lies beneath it to supply the power that will activate that mantle.

This mantle is available, as all the mantles are, to every believer. The prophet in office however is given a key which is a symbol of authority. It is a specific key.

The prophetic mantle gives an ability and is available to every believer. However although it is available to every believer, you cannot be born with it. This thing does not manifest during childhood.

I have heard big name prophets bragging and saying,

"I was born to prophesy. I came out of my mother's womb prophesying."

That is nonsense! It does not manifest in childhood. Yes it can manifest from very young, but only after a person has received the baptism or the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Can Be Counterfeited

Unfortunately this mantle can be counterfeited by the enemy. There are those who claim that they are prophets, but they are operating in the power of Satan. Some of them are witchdoctors, psychics or fortune tellers.

They have a spirit of divination and it looks very similar. These people can tell you things about yourself that they didn't know and that nobody ever revealed to them.

Very often when someone sees that, they accept that as a sign that this person must be a man or woman of God. Well that was happening back in Paul's day already.

Simon the sorcerer stood up and made out he was a big hotshot and all the people gave attention to him. They thought he was doing it through the great power of God, but he was doing it through demon power.

The prophetic mantle is never given to glorify a person. Simon was using that, then afterwards when he saw them laying on hands for people to receive the baptism he said,

"Ooh, I want that too! How much money do you want for it so that I can look good?"

Peter spoke to him and said,

"You don't know what you are talking about. You are in the gall of bitterness and you are in bondage."

Anyone Can Prophecy

Who can prophecy? You might say to me,

"Anyone who is a prophet can."

But this isn't quite what Paul said. In 1 Corinthians 14:24 he was speaking to the Corinthian church who were getting carried away with their speaking in tongues. Charismatics still make the same mistake. They think,

"I am so spiritual when I speak in tongues. Just look at me."

I have seen preachers stand up behind the pulpit and speak in tongues to impress everybody about how close they are to the Lord.

When I see that, I see a guy who really doesn't have anything. He is trying to impress and pretend to us.

You might see a person standing preaching and he bursts out into tongues. Then he says,

"Thus says the Lord."

He prophesies and interprets his tongue.

You think to yourself,

"What a man of God."

Or he says, "Yes Lord, I'll tell them that. Okay."

You think, "Wow, what a man of God!"

I am not saying they didn't hear from God, but do we need to make a show to impress everybody? That is not what it is about.

Paul says if you are speaking in tongues and people come in they are going to say that you are nuts. He says in 1 Corinthians 14:24,

But if everyone prophesies, and there comes in one that does not believe, or [that is] uninformed, he is convicted by everyone, he is judged by everyone:

Why? Because somebody who prophesies actually gets a revelation of the secrets that nobody knows. In verse 25 he says,

And so the secrets of his heart are made visible; and so falling down on [his] face he will worship God and declare that God is really in you.

How important is this? Firstly Paul says here that instead of majoring on speaking in tongues, why don't you major on prophecy?

He encourages all believers to earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit. There are nine of these gifts. There are three revelation gifts, three power gifts and three vocal gifts. Which of these nine is the most important?

I know most people will say miracles, signs and wonders and healings.

But Paul didn't think so. In 1 Corinthians 14:1 he says,

Pursue [agape] love, and passionately desire spiritual [gifts], but mostly that you may prophesy.

According to Paul, prophesying is the most important of all. It is so important that every one of us should be aspiring to flow in this supernatural anointing.

Every believer should be earnestly desiring the prophetic mantle to be able to operate in the power of God. Because when you do that, you are going to have a divine ability that will open doors for ministry like you wouldn't believe.

We have looked at different mantles of ministry. I know most folks desire to be used in miracles and healings and the big stuff. But Paul says that prophecy is the greatest.

Why? Because it has the widest scope of ministry. Every single one of us goes through times of confusion and doubt.

Yes we all suffer sicknesses and diseases. But it is usually only when we get to the place where the disease is incurable or life threatening, that we suddenly realize the need for God to touch us and perform a miracle.

We all need to hear from God at all times for ourselves. We need to know that He cares and that He has a plan for us. Actually I have seen that this is probably the most popular form of ministry that is available in the Body of Christ.

Prophetic Ministry vs. Healing Ministry

I remember some years ago as I was still learning many of these things and looking to be used by the Lord. At that time one particular man rose up who was really used by the Lord in healing and miracles.

He was a humble man and God really anointed him. He was one of the first who had a manifestation which at that time I kind of was suspicious about. That is that gold dust would sometimes appear on people when they were ministered to.

He had quite a following and a lot of people were coming to his meetings. And I managed to get a video of one of the meetings where he was ministering.

In spite of the gold dust thing which I kind of didn't like, he was a humble man of God. He brought another man with him who was more of a prophetic person. He was by no means a prophet in office. He was just a little guy who got a few prophetic revelations.

I remember right in the middle of the meeting as he was about to minister this healing power of God, he humbly said,

"Would you guys like me to continue praying for the sick and ministering, or would you like to receive some prophetic ministry."

Every hand went up and the people said,

"Prophetic! We want the prophetic."

So this other guy that he brought with him stood up. He was not nearly as humble as the other guy was or as anointed for that matter. He began to prophesy over people and call them out and everybody raved about this person.

I am afraid it is still the same in the Body of Christ today. Just go and check out the largest groups out there and find out who are the famous preachers who are drawing the biggest crowds. It is the ones who stand up there and give prophetic revelation.

Everybody wants a prophetic word. Such a person just needs to say,

"I am going to prophesy over people today. Whoever would like to receive a word of prophesy, just come and form a line."

Before you know it, most of the seats will be empty and everybody will be at the front, waiting for a personal word of prophecy.

I am not saying it is the way it should be. But unfortunately it is a fact. It is a reality we have to face.

So if you want to be used by the Lord and you want God to use you, you will always find someone who wants a prophetic word.

You may not always find someone who needs a miracle of healing or any other form of ministry. You will find even less who are looking for a good teaching. But come with a prophetic word and they are there in a flash.

So God will give that revelation. And when He gives prophetic revelation and you reveal the secrets of peoples' hearts, they will open their hearts wide to receive from you.

It will often build their faith to trust God for the miraculous. And very often as a result of that, it will open the door to flowing in the supernatural.

Make the Prophetic First

If you are earnestly desiring to be used by the Lord in signs and wonders and miracles, perhaps you should start by looking at flowing in the prophetic first.

You will find that it will open doors wide for you. And once you begin to minister to people in that way, they will open their hearts to receive from you. Because you see if they don't believe that you are anointed, no signs and wonders are going to take place.

It is not how powerfully anointed you are very often that determines the results. But rather it is whether the person you are ministering to has sufficient confidence in you and believes that you are anointed to be used by God.

So I want to say this and I am speaking prophetically now. This is because I know that there are some of you who are reading this and you are thinking,

"I would love to be used in healing and in miracles."

God's word to you in this is first prophesy. This was according to the Apostle Paul. Paul himself was not a prophet, but he knew how important it is.

If you are going to flow in any ministry or any gift, seek first to prophesy and a lot of these other things will follow afterwards.

When it comes to the teacher, I was a teacher for many years. I tried to succeed and God gave me some awesome teachings. But people were never knocking down the doors to come and get my teaching.

I remember the very first church that I pastored. I was trying to flow as the teacher that I was and I was a good teacher. I was anointed.

But then God started to give me a few prophetic revelations and I thought,

"I can't do that. I am supposed to be a teacher."

Eventually I just let that go and I started to give prophetic revelation. Then suddenly everyone who was bored with my teaching was so excited that I was flowing as a prophet now.

How to Receive the Mantle

The prophetic mantle is available to you, but how do you get it?

Firstly you must desire it, because God is not going to give you anything you don't desire. He is not going to say,

"You look like a good person who could use a prophetic mantle. Do you want one?"

No, it will not happen if you do not earnestly desire it. And I mean desire it to the point where you say,

"I can't live without it."

If you don't do that it is not coming.

Then you must prepare for it. You must go and have your measurements taken for your new suit so that it fits. Because just getting the anointing and not knowing what to do with it is not really going to accomplish anything is it?

There will be some training you will need to go through. There will be some experiences that you need to have and there will be some tests that you will face. But it will not be as bad or as severe as someone who is called to office.

There will however still be requirements from you before you receive this mantle. Then when you finally receive it, you must learn how to activate it and you must learn how to use it.

How do you do that? It is a big subject and we are going to be covering it in quite a few sections. This is only the introduction to this teaching.

Those of you in our Supernatural School will be able to benefit from all the teachings which we will be giving from now on. And each week we will add a new teaching on the mantle of the prophet.

So this was just the introduction. I hope you understand a little bit more of what is involved. But you will understand it a lot better as we go on.

I will be explaining how the prophetic anointing works and how each gift operates. And by the time we are finished, you will be ready to reach out and receive this mantle. And you will rise up and enter into the ministry that you desire and that God has called you to.