



ANDRE BRONKHORST

STEWARDING THE VOICE OF GOD

MATURITY IN THE
PROPHETIC GIFT

André B – Stewarding The Voice of God

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BY
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Introduction

An Introduction from the Author

Dear Reader,

To advance in your prophetic gift means to grow in clarity, responsibility, and spiritual maturity. Prophetic growth is not only about increasing accuracy or detail—it's about handling revelation with integrity, knowing the Father's heart, and reflecting Jesus to the world. True advancement includes being trustworthy with God's secrets and learning to steward revelation in humility and love.

Sometimes, too much information can do more harm than good, especially when it is not handled with the heart of God. Revelation is powerful. But power without wisdom becomes dangerous. Therefore, we must ask ourselves: *Can God trust me with the secrets of people's lives? Can I be a trustworthy vessel of His voice?*

Scripture reminds us in **Luke 16:10** (*New International Bible, 1978/2011*)

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much..." Before God releases more, He looks at how we steward the "little" we already have.

Many want the microphone, the stage, and the public affirmation, but prophetic maturity is often cultivated in the secret place—where no one sees, and where your only audience is God.

In this book, we'll explore what it means to grow and advance in the prophetic, refine your delivery, and develop the character that matches your calling.

May this guide help you cultivate a heart that is not only gifted but also deeply trustworthy and aligned with the Father's love.

Blessings,

Andre Bronkhorst.

Chapter One: THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

The goal of prophecy is not performance. It is not to amaze, entertain, or gain influence. The goal is connection—between God and His people. According to 1 Corinthians 14:3 (*New International Bible*, 1978/2011), “the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” Every word must bring people closer to the heart of God.

“But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.”
~ 1 Corinthians 14:3 (NIV)

True prophetic ministry always points to Jesus. It builds faith, ignites hope, and brings comfort to the weary. It restores, not destroys. It convicts, but it does not condemn. Prophetic words should cause people to feel the heartbeat of the Father and be drawn toward deeper intimacy with Him. Prophetic accuracy is important—but prophetic love is essential. God is not looking for “prophetic professionals” who deliver flawless words, but for surrendered sons and daughters who carry His heart with tenderness and humility.

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Prophecy is for connection, not performance.** The goal is to bring people closer to God, not to impress them or gain influence.
- **True prophecy builds people up.** According to 1 Corinthians 14:3, it should strengthen, encourage, and comfort.
- **Prophecy must point to Jesus.** It should build faith, ignite hope, and restore, not destroy. It convicts, but does not condemn.
- **Love is more important than accuracy.** God seeks humble, loving people to deliver His heart, not flawless professionals.

Practical Applications

1. **Check your motives.** Before speaking, ask yourself if the word will bring the person closer to God.
2. **Focus on the recipient.** Deliver words with gentleness and humility, aiming for the other person's growth.
3. **Prioritize a relationship with God over a reputation for being prophetic.** Your ability to hear from God flows from intimacy with Him.
4. **Speak with a heart for restoration.** Even correction should lead to reconciliation, not shame.

Chapter Two: GOD MUST TRUST YOU WITH PEOPLE

God knows everything about everyone. But He doesn't share everything with everyone. Revelation is entrusted, not exposed. And God only reveals secrets to those He can trust to handle them with love and discretion.

As prophetic people, we must learn to see beyond human behavior. It's easy to judge someone based on what they've done—but we're called to love them based on who God says they are. In Acts 15:32 (*New International Bible*, 1978/2011), we see that prophets “encouraged and strengthened the believers.” This remains the heart of prophetic ministry today: build, bless, and restore.

“Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers
~ Acts 15:32 (NIV)

God often tests our hearts by what He reveals. He may show you a person's struggle not so you can confront them, but so you can intercede for them. He may expose a hidden pain not so you can preach about it, but so you can carry it with compassion.

To truly advance in your prophetic gift, you must lay down the need to be right or recognized and pick up the burden to love and restore

Key Takeaways

- **Revelation is a trust.** God entrusts prophetic insight to those who will handle it with love and discretion.
- **Love over judgment.** We are called to see people as God sees them, loving them based on their identity in Christ, not their behaviour.
- **Prophecy is for intercession.** God often reveals struggles so we can pray for people, not so we can confront them.
- **Humility fuels growth.** Advancing in your gift means letting go of the need for recognition and picking up the burden to love and restore.

Practical Applications

1. **Pray first.** When God reveals something about someone, your first response should always be to pray for them, asking God how to use the information to bless them.
2. **Focus on the person, not the prophecy.** The goal of a prophetic word is to help someone feel God's love and comfort.
3. **Let go of pride.** Continuously ask yourself if you're seeking to be right or to restore someone

Chapter Three: FROM WOUNDS TO WEAPONS

Prophetic people are often formed through pain. Many who carry prophetic callings have experienced rejection, abandonment, or betrayal. These wounds, if submitted to God, become tools in His hand. Why? Because pain gives you compassion. And compassion gives you access to people's hearts.

God often allows us to experience hardship so we can minister to others with empathy. You cannot prophesy restoration if you've never known brokenness. You cannot speak healing if you've never bled. Your journey equips your voice.

Never waste your wilderness. Allow it to soften your heart, not harden it. Let it teach you how to speak with mercy, how to wait with patience, and how to see others the way God sees them. Jesus Himself was a "man of sorrows," yet His words brought life. Our sorrows, when surrendered, become seeds that produce grace for others.

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Pain cultivates prophetic character.** Many prophetic people are shaped by past pain, which God uses as a tool.
- **Compassion is key.** Personal hardship is meant to develop empathy, which gives you access to people's hearts.
- **Your journey equips your voice.** Your experiences with brokenness and healing are what give your prophetic words authenticity.
- **Surrender your sorrow.** Your "wilderness" seasons are not to be wasted; they are meant to soften your heart and teach you how to minister with mercy.

Practical Applications

1. **Surrender your pain to God.** Ask Him to use your story to help others instead of allowing it to harden you.
2. **Use your empathy.** When you see someone in pain, let your past struggles guide you in how to minister to them.
3. **Let your words flow from your journey.** Speak authentically from what God has taught you through your hardships.
4. **View trials as training.** See difficult seasons as preparation for becoming a more compassionate prophetic voice.

Chapter Four: CHARACTER OVER GIFTING

Prophetic gifting can take you far, but only character will keep you there. We live in a culture that celebrates charisma, talent, and platform. But in the kingdom of God, it's character, humility, and obedience that matter most. Gifting without character becomes dangerous—because people begin to worship the voice, and not the God behind it.

Advancing in your prophetic gift requires you to continually ask: Am I still teachable? Am I submitted to leaders? Do I live from the secret place or public affirmation?

Remember, pride is thinking more of yourself than you are; false humility is thinking less of yourself than you are. True humility is believing what heaven says about you—and walking in it with confidence and surrender. Jesus did not come to judge the world but to save it (John 3:17 - *New International Bible*, 1978/2011). So we don't prophesy to accuse—we prophesy to redeem.

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him”
~ John 3:17 (NIV)

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Character trumps gifting.** While prophetic gifts can open doors, only character, humility, and obedience will sustain you. Gifting without character can lead people to focus on you instead of God.
- **Humility and teachability are essential.** True humility is confidently embracing what God says about you while remaining teachable and submitted to leadership.
- **Prophecy is for redemption.** Your words should reflect Jesus' mission to save, not to condemn. The goal is always to redeem, not to accuse.

Practical Applications

1. **Prioritize character over charisma.** Focus on developing humility and integrity, and stay accountable to trusted leaders.
2. **Seek God in private.** Ensure your identity and affirmation come from your time with God, not from public recognition.
3. **Check your words for grace.** Before you prophesy, ask if your words are meant to redeem and save, or to accuse and judge.

Chapter Five: THE DISCIPLINE OF THE PROPHET

Prophetic growth is not just a gift—it is a discipline.

Isaiah 50:4 (*New International Bible*, 1978/2011), describes the daily discipline of listening: “Morning by morning He awakens me and opens my ears to listen like one being instructed.” Prophets must be learners before they are speakers. The secret to powerful words is sensitive ears.

“The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.”
~ Isaiah 50:4 (NIV)

Spend time in the Word. Spend time in worship. Wait on the Lord. Learn to recognise His voice, not just in the spectacular, but in the stillness. Let His whisper train your discernment. You must also be accountable. Submit your words to others. Allow seasoned leaders to correct you. The lone prophet is dangerous. Growth comes in community.

Discipline also means knowing *when not to speak*. Just because you receive a word doesn't mean you must release it immediately. Timing is as important as content. Wait on God's timing, and always ask: *Is now the right time? Is this the right place?*

Key Takeaways

- **Prophecy is a discipline.** It requires a daily practice of listening to God, not just having a gift. You must be a learner before a speaker (**Isaiah 50:4**).
- **Cultivate stillness.** Learn to hear God's voice in the quiet moments, not just the spectacular. This trains your discernment.
- **Accountability is vital.** The "lone prophet" is dangerous. Growth happens in a community where you submit your words to trusted leaders.
- **Timing is key.** Just because you have a word doesn't mean you should speak it immediately. Wait on God's timing and ask if it's the right time and place.

Practical Applications

1. **Establish a daily listening routine.** Set aside time to be still and listen to God's whisper, letting it train your discernment.
2. **Submit to spiritual authority.** Share what you're hearing from God with trusted leaders and be open to their correction.
3. **Discern before you speak.** Before delivering a prophetic word, ask if the timing and setting are right. If in doubt, hold the word and continue to pray.

Chapter Six: BEYOND THE NEED FOR RECOGNITION

One of the greatest tests of prophetic maturity is the temptation for recognition. But the most powerful prophets are often the least known. Why? Because their reward is not fame—it's intimacy with God.

Do you need to be acknowledged? Do you crave the stage? Or can you be satisfied with God's smile alone?

Jesus never built His identity around the applause of people. He often withdrew from the crowds to be alone with the Father. That's where true prophetic power is forged—not in popularity, but in proximity.

As Paul said, we should be eager to prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:1, *New International Bible*, 1978/2011), not for attention, but to build up the Body of Christ. The more invisible you become, the more He can be seen through you.

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially
prophecy.”
~ 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NIV)

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Maturity resists recognition.** The greatest test of a prophet is their desire for intimacy with God over public fame.
- **Power is forged in private.** True prophetic power comes from private time with God, not public popularity. Jesus' example shows that proximity to the Father is key.
- **Prophecy is for building others up.** The goal is to build the Body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 14:1**), not to gain attention for yourself.
- **Invisibility magnifies God.** The less you seek to be seen, the more clearly God can be seen through your gift.

Practical Applications

1. **Check your motives.** Regularly ask yourself if you are prophesying to serve people or to seek attention.
2. **Prioritize time with God.** Make your "secret place" with God the source of your security and identity, not public praise.
3. **Embrace humility.** Be willing to serve in small, unseen ways with the same passion as on a large platform, knowing God's approval is your reward.

Chapter Seven: PROPHECY AND RESTORATION

Prophecy is not just about foretelling events. It is about restoring people to the heart of God. Restoration precedes repentance. When someone feels God's love, they are drawn to Him, and in that process, true repentance flows.

Effective prophets help restore the broken connection between God and His people. They point the way back to Him, not through guilt, but through grace.

People rarely confess their darkest struggles on their own. But a prophetic word, wrapped in love, can unlock the door of their heart. Your prophecy might not change them immediately—but it can plant a seed that leads to transformation.

Never underestimate what God can do with a simple, obedient word spoken in love.

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Prophecy is for restoration, not just foretelling.** Its main purpose is to bring people back to God's heart through grace.
- **Restoration precedes repentance.** When people feel God's love, true repentance follows naturally.
- **Prophecy unlocks hearts.** A loving word can open a person's heart and plant a seed for transformation, even if immediate change isn't seen.
- **Love and obedience matter most.** Don't underestimate the power of a simple, loving, and obedient word from God.

Practical Applications

1. **Focus on grace, not guilt.** Frame your prophetic words in a way that communicates God's love and invitation.
2. **Pray for open hearts.** Ask God to use your words to unlock a person's heart and plant a seed of truth.
3. **Don't demand immediate results.** Trust the Holy Spirit to bring transformation in His timing.

Chapter Eight: TEACHING & EQUIPPING OTHERS

The prophetic gift is not meant to stay with you. It's meant to be imparted, taught, and multiplied. As Ephesians 4:11-12 (*New International Bible*, 1978/2011) teaches, prophets are part of the five-fold ministry "to equip His people for works of service."

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up
~Ephesians 4:11-12(NIV)

Your role is to raise others to teach them to hear God, to speak truth, and to walk in purity. The next generation needs your example and your mentorship.

Jesus reproduced Himself in others. He trained His disciples not just to hear God, but to live like Him. Prophetic maturity means you stop trying to be impressive and start raising others..

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Prophecy is meant to be imparted and multiplied.** The prophetic gift isn't just for you; it's a tool to equip others for ministry, as outlined in **Ephesians 4:11-12**.
- **Your role is to raise the next generation.** True prophetic maturity involves teaching others to hear God, speak truth, and walk with integrity. Your example and mentorship are crucial.
- **Maturity shifts from performance to equipping others.** The goal is no longer to be impressive, but to reproduce yourself in others by training them to live and minister like Christ.

Practical Applications

1. **Be a mentor.** Actively seek opportunities to mentor and train others in hearing God's voice.
2. **Share your insights.** Don't hold onto prophetic words you receive for others. Teach them how you heard God and the process you followed.
3. **Lead by example.** Live a life of purity, humility, and obedience. Your lifestyle is a powerful lesson for those you are training.
4. **Focus on equipping, not being the "star."** Shift your focus from delivering a powerful word to empowering others to deliver their own.

Chapter Nine: PROPHETIC GIFTS & FLOWS

1 Corinthians 12 outlines the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including prophecy, wisdom, healing, tongues, and more. Each of these gifts operates through faith. As your faith grows, your ability to flow in these gifts increases.

Every prophet must understand timing and seasons. Some words are for now, some are for later, and some are simply to be prayed over in private.

Discern whether a word is for the past, present, or future. Prophetic maturity means knowing the “what” is not enough—you also need to understand the “when” and “why.”

Prophetic words must also align with Scripture. God will never contradict His Word. If your prophecy doesn't line up with His written Word, it's not from Him.

Chapter Key Takeaways & Practical Applications

Key Takeaways

- **Gifts operate by faith.** Prophecy and other spiritual gifts, as listed in **1 Corinthians 12**, function and grow as your faith increases.
- **Timing is essential.** A mature prophet understands that not all words are for public release. Some are for the present, some are for the future, and some are just for private prayer and intercession.
- **Prophetic words must align with Scripture.** A true prophecy will never contradict the Bible. If a word does not line up with God's written Word, it is not from Him.
- **Maturity means understanding the full context.** It's not enough to know *what* a word is. Maturity requires understanding the *when* and *why* behind it.

Practical Applications

1. **Build your faith.** Spend time in prayer, worship, and God's Word to strengthen your faith. This will directly impact your ability to operate in prophetic gifts.
2. **Discern the timing.** When you receive a prophetic word, take time to pray and ask God what its purpose and timing are. Is it for the present, or is it a seed for a future season?
3. **Check the word against Scripture.** Always filter prophetic words through the Bible. If a word seems to contradict God's character or His written Word, discard it.
4. **Seek understanding, not just insight.** Go beyond simply hearing a word. Ask God for a deeper understanding of its purpose, its timing, and its intended audience.

In Closing...

As you grow in your prophetic gift, remember:

- Live from a place of rest. Don't strive. Let intimacy flow from your time with God.
- The goal of prophecy is to build the Church, not your platform.
- True prophetic power is rooted in compassion, not control.
- You don't need to "feel" something for it to be powerful—just obey.
- Jesus is the model. Always speak from love, truth, and redemption.

People may not always respond outwardly when you prophesy. Some may resist. Some may misunderstand. Don't be discouraged. The enemy often tries to distract you because He knows how powerful your obedience is.

Keep your eyes on Jesus. Let Him guide your voice, your timing, and your heart.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of prophecy and for calling me to walk closely with You. I recognize that this gift is holy, and it is not about me—but about revealing Your heart to Your people.
Lord, teach me to steward revelation with wisdom, love, and maturity.

Give me ears that hear You clearly and a heart that reflects Your compassion. May I not seek recognition but seek to glorify You in all that I speak and do. Help me to remain humble, teachable, and obedient. Let every word I speak be grounded in Your truth and seasoned with grace.

Develop in me the character that matches the calling. Break every spirit of pride, fear, or performance, and teach me to prophesy from a place of rest, intimacy, and trust. Make me a vessel that builds up, encourages, and restores.

Thank You that You are still speaking today. I commit myself to grow in this gift—not for my benefit, but to equip the saints, strengthen the Church, and glorify the name of Jesus.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Scripture reference & study

Scripture References (*New International Bible*, 1978/2011)

1 Corinthians 14:1-3 “Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.”

Acts 15:32 “Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.”

Luke 16:10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

John 3:17 “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”

Isaiah 50:4 “The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.”

Matthew 13:24–30 (Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat)

“Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

“‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

“‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

Ephesians 4:11-13 “So Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:1, 8–11 “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines.”

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New International Bible. (2011). The NIV Bible. <https://www.thenivbible.com> (Original work published 1978)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



André Bronkhorst is a globally recognised prophetic voice with a passion for equipping and empowering the Body of Christ. With over two decades of ministry experience, he is dedicated to bringing clarity, direction, and encouragement through biblical teachings, personal prophecy and hearing God's Voice.

Known for his accuracy and Spirit-led guidance, Prophet André helps individuals and churches align with God's purpose for their lives. His ministry focuses on equipping leaders, teaching biblical principles, and demonstrating the heart of God in every encounter.

Through conferences, workshops, and online platforms, Prophet André has impacted countless lives, inspiring faith and igniting a deeper hunger for God's presence.

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