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Hello once again brothers and sisters, friends and family, co-workers and associates. Welcome to this month's edition of the "Winds of Revolution" newsletter. I know it has been a while since my last newsletter, but with the recent events that has transpired over the last few days, I felt compelled to issue this one. After several e-mails, and countless hours of phone conversations, I wanted to make sure we get back to the basic of God's Word, so here we go.

### Where Have All the True Prophets Gone?

I have been in deep prayer over the last few weeks, seeking the face of God and trying desperately to get answers that only He and His Word can provide. I woke up this morning with this question on my mind, "Where have all the true Prophets Gone and where are the present day sons of Issachar, men of understanding who knew the times (1 Chronicles 12:32). If they are out there, I plead with them to come forth and speak the Word to a perverted and lost generation.

Here is what I do know; seminaries and bible colleges are not training prophets. They primarily teach Greek, a little pseudo Hebrew, historical theology, hermeneutics, etc. Everything is designed to help you exegete the text, and most of that is done in error. No one equips them to exegete the culture. With seminaries and bible colleges turning out teachers, we shouldn't be surprised that few prophetic voices are heard in the local church setting.

Today's Church structures are unsafe and unwelcoming for true prophets. A prophet by definition is going to disturb the status quo, make people uncomfortable, and rock the boat. And when a pastor with a prophetic function is completely dependent upon the congregation for his/her livelihood, it creates a conflict of interests. "Centralized funding makes the minister or leader economically subservient to the dominant interests of the group. It's very hard to have a prophetic ministry within a group that provides your salary. And this incapacity to cultivate an authentic prophetic ministry contributes directly to the institutionalization of ministry and the church. Leadership is thus always hostage to the reactionary groups in the congregation. Change becomes inordinately hard". There are several ways to overcome this problem, but the church is not ready for such drastic change, even though that change carries the potential to save countless souls and awaken the church that has been asleep for decades.

Ministries evaluate size not depth. I refer to this as the secular ABCs of ministry: Attendance, Buildings, and Cash. This is what most churches use to measure or determine if their ministry is effective and successful. The ability to increase these quantifiable elements is not the strength or sign of a true prophet. They fall into the category of counting the sheep instead of weighing them. I have often told pastors, I'd rather lead ten fat, healthy sheep, than 25,000 weak, deceived, diseased and sick sheep. Those sheep are worthless at the market, but the value of one healthy sheep

cannot be measured. There is a lot I could say about that, but I will refrain for now. In fact, an unrestrained prophet is sure to diminish attendance, buildings, and cash. If the church only sees success in ministry as numerical growth, they will never tolerate the ministry of true prophets. Our role is not to add people to the church but to the kingdom. Prophets bring depth and discernment to the community, they correct the course when ministries get off track, and they warn you all when pragmatism begins to overshadow faithfulness. True prophets teaches the church to preserve Gods law and not to violate it, they teach you not to profane the Lord's holy things, they make a clear distinction between the holy and the profane or secular, they show you the difference between clean and unclean, they do not hide their eyes from the Sabbaths, and they will give their life for Gods people (Ezekiel 22:26).

Much of what the church has labeled as true prophetic gifts are nothing more than allowing someone to tap into your emotions and speak to you vain hope; tickling ears with what they want to hear. If they were true prophets sent of God and stood in His council, they would have proclaimed His words and turned Gods people from their evil deeds (Jeremiah 23:22). But instead they help individuals in the church promote their selfish agendas by speaking vain hope, when the Lord has not spoken. We have all heard the rhetoric which causes your deceived hearts to leap, "God is going to promote YOU, God is going to open up doors to promote YOUR book, God is going to bring you before great people to promote YOUR CD, God is going to give You a big house, You are coming into lots of money, You will have a new wife, You will have a big church, I had this dream, I had that dream, and the list goes on and on (Jeremiah 22:16-33). They continue to support man's selfish ambitions, falling to realize that "Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21). Proverbs 16:9, 16:1, Psalms 106:13. Psalms 33:10.

Just to share a personal story. I know how tempting it is to listen and follow vain prophetic hope. I have experienced it myself several (over 10) years ago. I was an up and coming minister, traveling, speaking and teaching. The people in the church in which I faithfully served loved me and my family, although the leaders felt intimidated and had to fake it. One Sunday, the senior pastor called me up front and began to prophecy vain hope over me; he had others join him. I still remember what was spoken and I also still have the tape. His words went something like this, " Minister Pride, thus says the Lord, He is going to use you mightily and you shall speak to thousands and YOUR ministry will be thousands and You will be on television and reach thousands, and YOUR name shall be great" and so on and on. Here is what was strange. As he was speaking, the Spirit of the Lord was also speaking to me and here is what the Spirit of the Lord was saying to me. "Prepare to die and be crucified, men from this very congregation will persecute you and speak evil things against you, and will try to turn others against you. But my hand is upon you and they will not prevail. You are not called to be famous, but a prophet to the nations and you will speak My words and cause many to turn from darkness to light and you shall sacrifice and fight for many. Know that no man has your reward, but your reward is in heaven, it is eternal". I began to weep. Many thought that I was weeping because of the vain prophetic hope the pastor was sharing, but I was weeping because of the voice of God, knowing that I needed Him to endure this journey He had for me. It was His plan for my life and not my own. That pastor went on to do exactly what the Lord had spoken to me that day, but the wisdom of the Lord prepared me. Many people were hurt when I left that ministry, some wept and could not understand why I graciously and silently departed and to this day I never told them why I left. Years later that pastor called me up and repented and we continue to speak to this day. God has been good to me and I will never trade His favor for fame and New Age mega church. There are not enough pages to tell you all how good God has been to me.

Ultimately, if we have any hope of restoring a prophetic ministry to the local church, we need to abandon our current ways of thinking. Somehow, the reigns of the church must be wrestled out of the hands of the pastors and placed back into the hands

of the Messiah. Not to say that there is no need for pastors, that would be foolish and unbiblical, and as many of you know, many of my good friends are pastors who I love and will fight to the death for. But to put things in its proper perspective, many of them have assumed a level of authority over the church that the scriptures does not support, and in my opinion, the present day role of the pastor has become one of the greatest hindrances to the church because it stifles the functions of others which the church desperately needs.

Here is what puzzles me, according the bible, It was the prophets that spoke the Word of the Lord to the people. Even the kings of old, good and bad had enough since to inquire of the prophets. Many of them would not even go to war without inquiring the prophets. And as we all should know, the scriptures say, "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets (Amos 3: 7). So where are the true prophets? Where are the present day Moses', Samuels, Elijah's, Elisha's, Isaiah's, Jeremiah's, Ezekiel's, Daniels, Hoses, Joel's, Amos, Obadiah's. Well first of all, let me tell you where they are not. They are not on your TBN networks, they are not at your New Age mega conferences, they are not at your prosperity conferences, they are not at your Ecumenical Promise Keepers conferences, they cannot be found on your late night television selling you snake oil or miracle spring water, their books cannot be found in your local bookstores or your church's bookstore, many of them cannot be found active in your local church (the church does not receive them, they hinder the pastors message and the local churches agenda), and contrary to popular belief, they definitely cannot be found wearing tight muscle shirts and a balding Gerry Curl, trying to look sexy in the pulpit in order to seduce the masses. So where are they, I submit to you they are where they have always been. They are in the trenches, the wilderness, the valley, the dessert places, that voice crying in the wilderness "prepare the Way of the Lord", proclaiming the Word of the Lord. They are not on the church circuit making their rounds, but they are wherever the Lord sends them. Although they love the church, most of them have shaken the local churches dust off of their feet and gone to those who have ears to listen. They look for no reward, can't be bought, could care less about the accolades of men, can't be manipulated, and speak truth even if it cost them their position in the so called in-crowd. They are comfortable walking alone and they patiently endure.

There are others that were called, but many have gone in search of mega churches and Hollywood. Gone in search of faith-based funding. Gone in search of personal comfort. Gone in search of political correctness. Gone into a ministry that places being praised over speaking truth to the power. Gone in search of a record deal or trying to get their book published by the ecumenical book publishing companies. They have abandoned their post and have sold out for temporary fame and the accolades of men. Failing to realize that it profits a man nothing to gain the world and loose his very soul. May the Lord raise up a new generation of true prophets that are willing to pay the price and endure the battle. I accepted the call many years ago and no one is going to distract or deter me. Will you answer the call?

Blessed be the Name of Yahshua and bless you all,

Minister James Pride

Founder and Chief Editor