



Prophetic and Playful: Practicing the Presence

Sarah Yardley



Reflect on:

- **What has been my journey around gifts of the Spirit?**
Where have I encountered the nearness of God?
What has been a barrier for me operating in the prophetic?



The Playful, Prophetic Spirit is seen:

- **Gifting wisdom and creativity to Bezalel (Exodus 31:1-5)**
- **Interpreting dreams through Joseph (Genesis 37, 40, 41)**
- **Foretelling history through the prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc)**
- **Anticipating a new heart and a new Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27)**
- **Enabling people in truth and power (Numbers 11:29)**



The Playful, Prophetic Spirit is seen:

- **Teaching us all things and reminding us of Jesus (John 14)**
- **Adopting us into the family of God (Romans 8:15)**
- **Allowing us to abound in hope (Romans 15:13)**
- **Enabling signs and wonders (book of Acts, Romans 15:19)**
- **Giftng us with understanding (1 Corinthians 2:12)**



When we pray "Come, Holy Spirit"

- We pray "Come, Holy Spirit" in our times of pain, echoing the way that David "in distress called upon the Lord" (2 Samuel 22:7).
- We pray "Come, Holy Spirit" in our times of joy, believing like the sons of Korah that "all of our springs are in You" (Psalm 87:7).
- We pray "Come, Holy Spirit" to "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6).
- We pray "Come, Holy Spirit" because we believe that when we are gathered together and filled with the Holy Spirit, we will be anointed to "speak the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).
- We pray "Come, Holy Spirit" because we believe that in the presence of God there are paths of life and fullness of joy (Acts 2:28).



Gifts (charisma) of the Spirit

- **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22)**
- **Word of knowledge, increased faith, the gifts of healing, the gift of miracles, prophecy, the discernment of spirits, kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues, exhortation/encouragement, giving, leadership, mercy, administration, helps, service, teaching, apostleship (1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28; Rom. 12:6-8)**
- **Building up of faith through the church operating in the prophetic through apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers (Ephesians 4:13).**



Five-Fold Gifting

- *Eric Knopf calls these:*
 - **Apostle = Dream Awakener**
 - **Prophet = Heart Revealer**
 - **Evangelist = Story Teller**
 - **Pastor = Soul Healer**
 - **Teacher = Light Giver**
- *Alan Hirsch describes them in this way in *The 5 Qs*:*
 - **Apostle - connected to the mission of God**
 - **Prophet - connected to the heart of God**
 - **Evangelist - connected to the message of God**
 - **Shepherd - connected to the people of God**
 - **Teacher - connected to the truth of God**



In Everything Love

- **“So *in everything* strive to love. Passionately seek the gifts of the Spirit, especially the gift of prophecy. *You see*, a person speaking in an *unknown* language is not addressing the church because he is really addressing God—those who overhear don’t understand because he is speaking in the Spirit the depths of the mysteries *of the Lord*. But a person who has the gift of prophecy teaches in a way that builds up the community, draws them near, and comforts them. Those who speak in an unknown language only strengthen themselves, but those who prophesy strengthen the community.” (1 Cor. 1-4)**



On Listening to God



“As I looked more closely at the gift of prophecy, I saw that if a prophetic word is from God, it will edify or exhort or comfort (see 1 Cor. 14:31). It will not necessarily be painless. Indeed, it will cut into a situation and cause pain, even fear. This is not unlike the incision the surgeon makes with his scalpel. It is the pain which precedes purging and healing, which is, in fact, an act of love.”

➤ -Joyce Huggett, The Joy of Listening to God



Lab 1: How do I prophesy?

- **Guidelines for operating in the prophetic:**
 - **Learn from Jesus.**
 - **No one is perfect.**
 - **Trust / Fall.**
 - **Avoid “Thus saith the Lord” language.**



Discerning Spirits

God's Voice

ALIGNS WITH THE
ARC OF SCRIPTURE

SOUNDS LIKE THE TONE
AND TEXTURE
OF JESUS' VOICE

PRODUCES THE FRUIT
OF THE SPIRIT

RESULTS IN FREEDOM
(NOT FROM, BUT IN
CIRCUMSTANCES)

Enemy's Voice

OPPOSED TO THE
LORDSHIP OF JESUS
(MAY MIMIC SCRIPTURE)

ACCUSATORY/FALSE/
DIVISIVE/ HURRIED/
COMPARISON

PRODUCES FEAR, GUILT,
PRIDE AND SHAME

RESULTS IN BONDAGE



5 Cs Guidance Matrix via Nicky Gumbel

- **1. Commanding Scripture** - what does the Bible say about the course of action that I'm thinking about? Are there any verses that I'm drawn to?
- **2. Common Sense** - God has given us reason for a reason so that we can reason! Think through pros/cons/purpose/aptitude/interests/gifting/passions.
- **3. Counsel of the Saints** - what do godly people who know me think about what I'm proposing?
- **4. Circumstantial Signs** - are there any interesting God-incidences around the situation?
- **5. Compelling Spirit** - is there a sense of the breath, wind and guidance of the Holy Spirit in all this?...



Lab 2: Practicing the Presence

- **“Stay inside your vocation, inside your commitments, inside your legitimate conscriptive duties, inside your church, inside your family, and they will teach you where life is found and what love means. If you are home alone with small children whose needs give you little uninterrupted time, then you don’t need an hour of private prayer daily. Raising small children, if it is done with love and generosity, will do for you exactly what private prayer does.”**

➤ *-Rohleiser, The Domestic Monastery*



Daily Prophetic Practice

- **As you go about your daily tasks, however ordinary or mundane, call to mind the presence of Jesus.**
- **Every time your mind wanders, repeat.**
- **Consider using a short breath prayer. To write a breath prayer, I often choose a name of God paired with a short longing of my heart. For example, when my heart is feeling shallow and overcommitted, I pray:**
 - o **Holy Spirit, make room.**
- **Be kind to yourself as you cultivate a life of prayer in the ordinary moments. Repent often and return to the sense of God's love towards you in all things.**
- **Ask God what the prophetic "now" presence of the Spirit towards you might reveal today.**



Lab 3: Ignatian Spirituality

1. Preparation

- As you enter prayer, call your mind to the presence of God. Offer God your whole self, exactly as you are, today.

2. Reading

- Choose a passage of Scripture and read that text in full; read it once or twice through until you are able to call to mind the passage without the words in front of you.

3. Imagine

- Imagine the whole world and then draw your attention to the particular story you have just read. Allow it to become alive to you. What would it be like to be a character in that story? What would it taste, smell, feel like?

4. Ask

- Ask a question or place of desire that has sparked in you by reading this passage.

5. Conversation

- Allow this time of prayer to draw you into a conversation with Jesus. What would you say to Him? What might He say to you?



The Voice of the Lord

- **In Revelation 1:15, His voice is described like the roar of many waters.**
- **In 1 Kings 19:12, His voice is a low whisper, a thin silence.**
- **In Psalm 68:33, God sends out His voice, His mighty voice.**
- **In Genesis 46:2, God speaks in visions of the night.**
- **In Isaiah 30:28, His breath is like an overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck.**

Are we listening?



Go Deeper

► People to Learn From

- Emily Jamieson, <https://www.jamiesoncoaching.com/>
- Hannah Giddens, <https://www.hannahgiddens.com/>
- Pete Greig, 247 Prayer, <https://www.24-7prayer.com/>

► Books to Read

- How to Hear God by Pete Greig
- The Joy of Listening to God by Joyce Huggett
- The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Andrew
- Practicing the Power by Sam Storms

► Stay in Touch

- Sarah Yardley, sarah@sarahyardley.com / @sarahyardley on most socials
- Creation Fest UK, office@creationfest.org.uk, @creationfestuk on socials