

PRAISE FOR THE EXERCISE OF PROPHECY

Truly awesome! This book is prophetic voice that has embraced the loving nature of God and the season of grace that Jesus ushered in on the cross. The reader will clearly understand why prophetic judgment is not an option today and why God will not speak in a way that belittles or devalues a believer's life. Every word spoken in the name of God should be spoken in the hot pursuit of love and for lifting our head so we might gaze into the beauty of Father's tender loving eyes.

Jack Frost
Shiloh Place Ministries

Graham Cooke's book, *The Exercise of Prophecy*, is destined to be one of the most practical tools the Holy Spirit will use to enrich and deepen the lives of many who desire to move more powerfully in the gift of prophecy. I love the way the book is structured and the very practical applications and readings at the end of the chapters. The sidebars telling the stories of great people in the kingdom of God who moved in prophecy after the apostolic age are a great encouragement to us who do believe God still speaks to His church. I am excited about this first of six books in this series that Graham will write. I will encourage its reading by the students at our Global

School of Missions, Church Planting and Supernatural Ministry. I consider Graham Cooke one of the most respected persons I know who not only has a prophetic gift, but who is in the office of a prophet. It will be hard to find a more practical book to help you grow in prophecy. Graham has walked through many rough seasons in his life, and I am proud to watch him live out his life with great integrity and faithfulness to the author of all prophecy. Graham has been faithful to continue to bear the testimony of Jesus which is the spirit of prophecy.

Randy Clark
Global Awakening

Once again, Graham Cooke delivers an extraordinary book on prophecy. His unique ability to communicate spiritual truth is refreshingly authentic and theologically sound. As one who ministers in the prophetic, I am indebted to the wisdom of years that Graham has put into this writing. *The Exercise of Prophecy* is truly a one-of-a-kind manuscript that reveals the heart and mind of one of the foremost prophets and thinkers in the church today. It is a must read that will help you navigate through the deep waters of prophetic ministry.

Larry Randolph
Larry Randolph Ministries

I highly recommend Graham's new book. He has profound insights into the nature of the prophetic ministry and never loses sight of the practical application.

Jack Deere
Evangelical Foundation Ministries

Graham Cooke's writings and teachings always leave me hungering and thirsting for more—more of God, more divine revelation, more understand of God's heart, ways and values. His writings whet my appetite for the deep things of the Spirit because the truths Graham presents come alive within my heart. *The Exercise of Prophecy* is full of divinely inspired revelatory treasures—treasures that took years of searching, refining and preparing to bring them as gifts to you, the reader. The richness of its contents reveals that the writer has truly paid a great price to pen its pages. I love this book!

Patricia King
Extreme Prophetic

In *The Exercise of Prophecy*, Graham Cooke has clearly articulated truth that is attainable and achievable. He demonstrates what is possible for those who are concerned to grow churches that announce and demonstrate the kingdom of God. Graham provides practical and incisive insight that releases a congregation to move forward together into who they are called to be. There is absolutely no doubt that this book will both initiate the way forward and build the future for churches that are intent on cultivating an appetite for God.

Peter McHugh
Senior Minister, C3Centre

I had hardly advanced into the first chapter when I ran smack into a classic Graham Cooke revelation. He wrote, "God is more interested in creating collaborative prophetic communities than He is in birthing a new generation of prophetic superstars." If this is so (and I think it is), then God will surely use the new book as a tool to shape the

skills and disposition of a new generation of prophetic voices. This new generation will have the ability to collaborate with one another and the throne room in a manner that will build a canopy of agreement between heaven and earth. Asaph taught his musician sons how to flow in the prophetic anointing of David's tabernacle, and I believe Graham's counsel will tune the instruments of the sons and daughters that God is raising to flow in the prophetic tabernacle that covers us in these last days.

Lance Wallnau
Lancelearning Group

I received a new level of faith in the prophetic reading this book. Graham reveals the intentionality of God's love and encouragement towards us, and makes it clear how we are to hear His voice, know His heart and prophesy confidently.

Julie Anderson
Prayer for the Nations

There is a curious tendency in "Spirit-filled" church life to promote the giftings of the New Covenant Spirit in the context of what is really Old Covenant practice. No wonder that we struggle with certain anomalies. However, there is brilliant news! Graham Cooke's new book, *The Exercise of Prophecy*, is a significant and mature contribution to the prophetic teaching arena, and his approach is best summarized by his comment, "Any time someone receives a prophetic word, grace should explode in his heart." Well said! The rest of the book is consistent with that statement in both its well-developed content and easily implemented practical exercises. This book is worthy of wide endorsement

and exposure. We need a healthy, life-giving approach to the understanding and practice of prophecy, and Graham manages to accomplish this extremely well.

David Crabtree
Senior Pastor, DaySpring Church, Sydney, Australia

I've always enjoyed Graham's writings and public ministry. His recent bite-size, interactive format is just in time for a faster thinking, activation and demanding generation. He makes me think and take time to pause with insights that act as keys, unlocking my own creativity. Keep those keys coming... let's see what treasures lie ahead!

Steve Witt
Edify Ministries International, Author of
Experiencing Father's Embrace

It's rare to find a prophet who can prophesy *and* train other to do the same! Graham's new book puts a rich treasure into the hands of the church, not just to understand the nature of the prophetic, but to develop a sensitive heart to the voice of God. When Graham first came to CFC 16 years ago, he prophesied many things which we are now walking in. But he also empowered us to develop the prophetic when he left. If you can't get Graham to come and visit you personally, then this book is a very close second! It imparts God's heart, has wonderful insights, is easily understood, and at the same time gives very practical instructions on how to develop the prophetic. I doubt iff there is a better book on the prophetic in print.

Paul Reid
Leader, Life Link Team, Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast

In Graham Cooke's new book, *The Exercise of Prophecy*, he outdoes himself, as I've come to expect. He continually amazes me with each line in this book. How can one man come up with so many quotable quotes? Wow! Based solely on Scripture yet lived out in his own life, the content of Graham's new book will walk you through the real purpose for prophecy today. This book is about transition in the prophetic gift currently operating and accepted within the church. So, use this as a primer for yourself, your friends, or even your own church group. You will never think of prophecy in the same way again!

Steve Shultz
The Elijah List

My personal acquaintance with this author makes my endorsement to be both a privilege and a responsibility. There are few voices in the realm of the prophetic dimension in which there would be the freedom to recommend a manuscript without reserve. Graham Cooke is one that has excelled in this needed realm. He has been given an unusual ability to remain biblically accurate and spiritually insightful while wrapping every instruction and expectation in the love of the Father. If your heart hungers to know and become involved in the prophetic dimension, don't hesitate to make this volume your very own.

Bob Mumford
Lifechangers

VOLUME ONE

THE EXERCISE *of* PROPHECY

THE CENTRAL THEMES OF PROPHETIC SPEECH

Graham Cooke

THE PROPHETIC EQUIPPING SERIES

The Exercise of Prophecy was formerly known as *Approaching The Heart of Prophecy, Module One*.



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DEDICATION

Every believer needs to hear God speak. He does not speak to our head, because the logic in our brain can only hear in the same way as a world that requires reason and rationale to understand anything. God speaks to our spirit where He lives in us. His mindsets are always the place of new thinking and wisdom that requires reflection and agreement.

His words rise up from within our spirit into our conscience minds bringing trust and faith to bear in our relationship with the Lord. As we hear Him a way of transition from old to new opens up a pathway from the now to the next.

Secondly, I dedicate this book to all people everywhere who are going through the process of transition. Transition is a journey into the bigness of God for you. In that series of steps you get to experience a

transformation that opens up the heavens and makes a way for you on earth. Never forget it is the process that makes you rich, not the outcome.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

If it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes an army of people to take territory and to keep it.

I know people who know how to fight for something. They stand in the Presence of The Ones who remain undefeated since the beginning.

The church needs a household of faith. A relational habitation that empowers trust, growth and maturity.

The kingdom requires an army. A disciplined body of people who are fixed on objectives and have the focus of warriors who know how to win.

If we are to take cities for God and raise up rural regions to encourage fullness in the face of warfare; then we must build churches that can prevail in the strategies and tactics of God.

We need the paradox of both household and army in order to accomplish our Kingdom role in the earth.

Lord raise up the type of leaders that can break the grip of the world, the flesh and the evil one.

ABOUT THE COVER

While vetting dozens of potential cover designs for *The Exercise of Prophecy*, I was reminded of a truth consistent to my experience in the prophetic: sometimes the key to transformation is illuminated by a glimpse of our Beloved.

Trials and difficulty, when revealed by the light of His promise, become our path to breakthrough and inheritance. What once we considered a moment of “crisis” is instead bathed in the glow of triumphant possibility. When we allow ourselves to be revealed in the light of Christ, God’s truest nature reaches through that light – heralding the presence of His truth, hope, love, and freedom.

May God’s light be a warm comfort on your surefooted journey.

Dia Becchio, Design

Psalm 119:105, Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. If it takes a village to raise a child, then it takes an army of people to take territory and to keep it.

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INTRODUCTION

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28–29)

THE WORLD CHANGED THE DAY the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus' remaining disciples in that famed upper room in Jerusalem. The Spirit of God, reserved in the Old Testament for a select few, had now been placed on anyone who sought and loved Christ. With that outpouring came the gifts of the Spirit. While once only a few could prophesy, suddenly everyone could.

I have been in the prophetic ministry since 1974. I began prophesying the year before. That's more than thirty years of sharing the love God has placed in my heart. Amazingly, I'm still learning—and I never want to stop. Every year, I understand something new about God and His ways. He never ceases to intrigue me.

More than a decade ago, my book, *Developing Your Prophetic Gifting*, was first published. It has been a greater success than I could have ever imagined. It has gone through many re-printings, several publishers have taken it up; it has been written in many, many languages; and it still is on the best seller list; and yet the material I teach now is light years beyond that original manuscript. I have come a long way

in the years since I wrote that first book. For one thing, I have taught countless prophetic schools during that time. As I work with students and emerging prophetic voices, I have had my own gift shaped and honed. “As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend,” as it says in Proverbs 27:17. The people I have met have pushed me further into the things of the prophetic. They have challenged me to find fresh ways of equipping, explaining, and encouraging.

For several months, I have felt the Lord prompt me to rewrite *Developing Your Prophetic Gifting*, adding the material I have taught in my schools over the past ten years since it was published. This book is the first in a series of six that will more fully equip people longing to speak the words of God to those around them.

Following the unqualified success of the spirituality journals in the *Being With God Series*¹, I have decided to develop this material into the same format.

Each book has assignments, exercises and meditations which, if followed, will bring each individual into an experience of God within the context of the material.

Together, we will study the practical elements of hearing God, of moving in the Spirit, of knowing God’s nature, and of representing His heart to someone else. We will learn how to be grounded in the love, grace, and rhythm of God. It is my prayer that these books will give you something fresh about who God wants to be for you. As you read the principles and illustrations within, I pray that you will be excited and inspired to venture further into what God has for you.

1 See www.brilliantbookhouse.com for more information

Prophecy comes when we have a burden to encourage and bless the people around us. There is no magic formula to prophesying; it all depends on our love for God. When we love Him fully, that love should spill over onto the people around us. Prophecy is simply encouraging, exhorting, and comforting people by tuning them into what God has for them. In every church in the world, there are people who need that life-giving word from God. These aren't just the individuals who are obviously struggling; some appear to have everything together. But God knows what's really going on.

**A SMALL MIND IS
INCOMPATIBLE
WITH A BIG HEART**

Everyone could benefit from a prophetic word, even those for whom everything is soaring. I love to prophesy over people who are doing really well. If we can target those people and increase their faith at a critical time, they can fly even higher in the things of the Spirit.

New Testament prophecy will be spoken through the context of the Gospel of Grace. Jesus has received the judgment of God for sin for all those who are living, to enable them to find repentance through the goodness and kindness of God.

Prophecy is now in the context of a family; a company of called out people who are learning together to become the beloved of God; the Bride of Christ. There is a new language in the Spirit to learn and the unity of the Spirit to maintain and enjoy, as a people together.

Of course there are necessary tensions in all good relationships and prophecy is not the way to resolve conflicts. Clearly we need wisdom for those situations.

I believe strongly that the more encouraging, exhorting, and comforting prophecy we have the better our churches will be. Blessing and

encouragement stir up anointing. The more of this kind of prophecy we can have in church, the less we will need intensive, time-consuming

**WHEN THE CHURCH
RUNS OUT OF
ENCOURAGEMENT,
THE WORLD RUNS
INTO WICKEDNESS**

pastoral care. People will actually be touched by God and come into the things of the Spirit themselves. Individuals will realize that, yes, they are loved personally by God. That kind of revelation will stoke up their faith in ways a counseling session never could.

I know I need that kind of encouragement every day from the Holy Spirit. I can't remember the last time I asked Him to encourage me and He didn't. He may not speak it out immediately, but He always meets me at the point of my greatest need. That's just who the Holy Spirit is, and what He loves to do.

This book can help you go further in the prophetic than you have ever hoped. After all, *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him,"*

(1 Corinthians 2:9).

The Exercise of Prophecy is not a quick read. I encourage you to take your time going through this book, reading slowly and with your heart, until you understand the themes and thought they contain.

Furthermore, don't neglect the exercises, case studies, and Bible readings included at the end of each volume - they are valuable practice tools which will take the lessons taught and put them into practice in your life.

Throughout this book, I have included several sidebar articles about some of my prophetic heroes. These are people who lived after the Bible was finished being written, heard the voice of God for themselves, and

did marvelous exploits for the Kingdom. I hope this will open your eyes to a few of the people who have gone before us.

I have also included some suggestions of resources that may help you further explore the themes contained in this book. I hope they prompt you to dig deeper into the things of the Spirit.

Blessings on your journey into the prophetic!

Graham

VOLUME **1** ONE

THE EXERCISE
of **PROPHECY**

THE CENTRAL THEMES OF PROPHETIC SPEECH

VOLUME ONE

The Exercise of Prophecy

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS SEGMENT:

- To develop confidence in God for your own journey.
- Prophecy for the common good?
- Developing self-control in your language.
- The pursuit of love as a prime response to life.
- To represent the New Covenant in prophecy.
- Judgment is replaced by admonition and exhortation.
- To be in tune with the heart of God.
- Moving in the opposite spirit to what comes against us.
- Become a model of grace and truth.
- To be an ambassador for reconciliation.
- Freedom as a core doctrine of the prophetic.
- Develop your life message concerning the nature of God.
- Cultivate a great perception of God.
- Speaking what could be!
- Central themes of prophetic speech.
- Only humility restores people. Judgment comes back on you.
- How to perceive and use grace growers.

VOLUME ONE

The Exercise of Prophecy

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS SEGMENT:

- The objective affects the Delivery. Purposefully prophetic.
- Hypocrisy is always disciplined.
- The Diagnosis and Prognosis of Prophecy.
- Prophesying the solution not the problem.
- Treasure seeking in the Kingdom.
- Discernment aids Direction in proclaiming breakthrough.
- The difference between a grace issue and a discipline issue.
- Moving in the peace of God rather than the pressure of man.
- Dealing with frustration.
- Seeing in the Spirit.
- The difference between personal and private prophecy.
- Working with building and blessing prophets.
- Case studies in the prophetic.
- Recording prophecy is vital.
- Exercises and Assignments to help you grow.
- What contributes maturity and immaturity in the practice of prophecy.
- How to develop a partnership with leaders in this context.

VOLUME ONE

THE EXERCISE *of* PROPHECY

GOD IS IN THE BUSINESS of developing prophetic companies around the world. I believe He is more interested in creating these collaborative communities than He is in breeding a new generation of prophetic superstars. His heart is to bring the whole body of Christ under a prophetic umbrella. To live in Christ is to live in the prophetic nature of God. The revelatory gifting is part of God's DNA, implanted in us at creation.

We are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27). Jesus came to restore that broken image through His death and resurrection. Image counts for something in the Kingdom. All good prophets are concerned with restoring the Christ-like image to the church. All prophecy is connected to rebuilding God's image in the Body of Christ. This is why we build into the Spirit and not against the flesh. What we build up (edify of Christ) in the image of God will automatically remove the flesh from the life of the believer.

Man has an inbuilt capacity to be drawn towards revelatory insight whether they are in Christ or not. It is part of the DNA in all people that they are drawn to the supernatural. It is the image of God. The Father did not remove His DNA because man had sinned. All people

are made in His image. Until Christ reforms it, that image is fractured but it still contains the propensity for spiritual experiences beyond the natural realm. If not Christ, then another power will seek to usurp that God shaped vacuum in all people.

A church that denies the Holy Spirit and His presence and power is simply not able to compete in a post modern culture where the organ for receptivity of truth is the eye and no longer the ear. People are not open to hearing about God. They want to see God at work because they live in a show and tell world.

Every one of us in the church has the capacity to prophesy. We can be a prophetic statement of what the Kingdom of Heaven is—showing people what Christ is really like—by our lifestyle, our actions, our

**PROPHECY IS
IN OUR DNA
BECAUSE...**

thoughts, and our identity. We're a prophetic voice of who God is, how He speaks, and what He's doing on the earth. We cannot help but be prophetic; it is in our very bones. It is who God made us to be.

It seems to me that the whole earth is waiting for something to be revealed. I sense that very clearly in my spirit; God wants to reveal something in these days that the earth has never seen. He is acutely interested in creating prophetic companies of people willing to hear His voice. He wants to finish better than we started—Pentecost was a wonderful beginning for the gifts of the Spirit, but God has even more in store.

Of all the billions of people walking the earth today, I believe that Christians should be the most confident. And out of that confidence should flow courage and boldness. We all need confidence for ourselves, to enable us to walk with God effectively and to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. Prophecy is centered on restoring confidence,

trust and faith to everyone who has an ear to hear. God wants a bold people, a prophetic company of declaration and proclamation. For far too long, the Church has been a people of explanation. God has not put us here to explain Him; He doesn't need our help, and we're not very good at rationalizing Him anyway. We can't explain Him, and we're certainly not supposed to apologize for Him. No, we are here to declare who He is. We are here to proclaim His majesty, and the best way to do that is by living it. Confidence is the lowest form of faith, but every Christian should stand at least at that level.

**...WE ARE
MADE IN
THE IMAGE
OF GOD**

Prophecy can help build people's faith by revealing more of God's nature to them. In 1 Corinthians 12:4–7, we read more of the Holy Spirit's role in this:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (NASB)

That final phrase, “for the common good,” is at the very heart of the revelatory gifts. The gifts of the Holy Spirit, including prophecy, are not just for our own personal benefit; they enable us to benefit the Church for the common good of everyone who is present. The gifts of the Spirit should never be abused—they are used only to bless the common good. The gifts of the Spirit are for the purpose of releasing and expanding the Kingdom not just empowering the church. The “common good” therefore is about the benefit for all humanity and

not just believers in Christ. Prophecy as much as all aspects of Christ's spirituality has relevance for all people everywhere at all times.

When God is vague about something it is always for a purpose. Clearly here He does not want us to know specifically what the "varieties" are of gift, ministry and effects. If He had specified exactly what these different varieties were then humanity would have locked up the experience to only those elements. This is an invitation to be open in our thinking and practice. It is an ongoing call to intentionally explore the heart of the Father for all people and all circumstances. It is a summons to live a life of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit so that He may always give us not only the best gift but the most suitable expression of it to that individual or people group.

Jesus only mentioned the word "church" two or three times in Scripture, but mentioned the "Kingdom" almost eighty times. He clearly wanted to keep our understanding of the Church as fluid as possible. *Ekklesia*, the Greek word for *Church*, means more than just a simple gathering; it can also mean a company of called out people. We are a committed band of people, meeting together for a common purpose. Church is not a place we go to. It is who we are together.

God didn't list the full variety of gifts because there are endless ways He can do things. He knew that if He had laid everything out for us, we would stop exploring the Spirit and quit experimenting with His gifts. In the past thirty years, I have worked with eighteen different kinds of prophets. I am sure there are more—I just haven't met them yet. I love discovering what kind of prophet a person is, and what the nature of their particular calling includes. God is not one-dimensional. He is multidimensional and far bigger than anything we could dream of.