

VOLUME TWO

**THE PROCESS**  
*of* **PROPHECY**

THE BEAUTIFUL STEPS OF MOVING IN PROPHECY

*Graham Cooke*

THE PROPHETIC EQUIPPING SERIES

*The Process of Prophecy* was formerly known as *Approaching the Heart of Prophecy*, *Module Two*.



**BRILLIANT BOOK HOUSE**

Published by Brilliant Book House LLC

PO Box 871450

Vancouver, WA 98687

[www.brilliantbookhouse.com](http://www.brilliantbookhouse.com)

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ISBN: 978-0-9896262-9-3

## DEDICATION

To all my friends in the Prophetic Ministry who have learned to grow up in God in the midst of one of the most persecuted areas of ministry.

All comparisons are odious. All judgments are spurious, except the one at the end of the age.

Learning the ways of God opens our eyes to His truth and life which we portray and of which we speak.

The central themes of God's nature in the new man are the drivers of what we teach and how we prophesy.

The people I have enjoyed listening to, talking with, and being around in life have all left an imprint on my mind, heart, and spirit:

Graham Perrins, Gerald Coates, Martin Scott, Christine Noble, Jack Deere, Mike Bickle, James Goll, Kim Clement, Patricia King, John Paul Jackson, Larry Randolph, Kris Vallotton, Stacey Campbell, David Wagner, Paul Cain, Johnny Enlow, Brad Jersak, Christine Larkin, Shawn Bolz, Garry Morgan, Mark Iles, Jim Paul, Michael Sullivant, Scot Webster, Bill Hamon, Dena McClure, Dan McColam, Peter Stott.

There is a larger list—these are my heroes. They have been tried, tested, and they have prevailed.

# 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

Much like life, design can be both a journey and an adventure with the Holy Spirit. While exploring visuals and options, His deep, soft presence is like the gentle pull of the compass—always sure, aligned, whispering a path to true north.

On this journey of life, I secure my confidence in the one thing that never changes—the steady company of our sure-footed Guide and Chief Encourager. The landscape of life's circumstances is guaranteed to change dramatically—unexpectedly morphing around us into deep depths of adversity. Or, just as quickly, these moments can open upon sweeping vistas of joyful breakthrough and revelation. During any trial or victory, God's steadfast hand is always present as He guides us onward and upward from within the beauty of His own heart—our authentic true north.

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21).

Dia Becchio, Design

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	xvii
The Process of Prophecy.....	5
Rejoicing Always.....	8
Meditation: Loving God with Your Mind.....	9
Waiting on God.....	17
The Heart Precedes the Mind at All Times .....	20
Soul and Spirit .....	32
Tongues .....	34
Unceasing Prayer.....	35
Prayer, Power, Process .....	41
Intimate Prayer.....	44
Pursue Love .....	47
New Beginnings.....	51
Three Phases of Revelation .....	56
Operating in Prophecy.....	62
Starting Where You Are.....	65
How Does Prophecy Come? .....	68
Being Quiet Is Key.....	86
Rhythm of Life with God .....	89
Give What You Have.....	90
Tongues and Interpretation .....	92
God Uses Everyday Objects.....	104

Reflections, Exercises, and Assignments ..... 112

A Meditation and Reflection Exercise ..... 152

What Kind of Partnership with Leaders? ..... 155

What Help and Support from Leaders ..... 156

A Prophecy ..... 160

Recommended Reading ..... 165

About the Prophetic Equipping Series ..... 167

About the Author ..... 169

## INTRODUCTION

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*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)*

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**T**HE 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 reprintings; 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,<sup>1</sup> I have decided to develop this material into the same format.

Each book has assignments, exercises, and meditations that, 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.

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

1 See [www.brilliantbookhouse.com](http://www.brilliantbookhouse.com) for more information.

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

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.

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 pastoral care. People will actually be touched by God and come into the things of the Spirit themselves. Individuals will realize that, yes,

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

they are loved personally by God. That kind of revelation will stoke 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 Process 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 thoughts 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 that 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 **2** TWO

**THE PROCESS**  
*of* **PROPHECY**

THE BEAUTIFUL STEPS OF MOVING IN PROPHECY

VOLUME TWO

## The Process of Prophecy

**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS SEGMENT:**

- How to come to God so that our prophesying is clean and pure.
- The power of meditation to reveal Presence.
- All joy belongs to the Father. It's who He is and therefore who we are too!
- The importance of stillness in waiting on God.
- Being renewed in the spirit of your mind.
- The spiritual life is powerfully possible when your soul comes under the rule of your spirit.
- Hearing and praying give huge impetus to knowing God's will.
- Process is the key to life in the Spirit. It is the process that makes us rich, not the outcome.
- Pursuing love as a prerequisite for moving in prophecy.
- Prophecy restores people's dignity and self-respect.
- Sensitivity to the Lord is the basis for all prophecy.
- The simple steps of moving in prophecy.
- Prophecy is released when we acknowledge a burden for an individual or a group of people.
- Living from your heart, not your head.

VOLUME TWO

## The Process of Prophecy

**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS SEGMENT:**

- How to receive revelation, not just information.
- The power of enlightenment in seeing from the heart.
- All knowledge leads to an actual experience of truth.
- Your perception is linked to your destiny.
- Your will is the vehicle for the spirit.
- Praying with God, not toward Him.
- Developing joyful routines that touch God's heart.
- The relationship between prayer, power and process.
- Pray like a bride, not a widow. Begging is not favor!
- To receive closure on the past and develop a present/future relationship with the Lord.
- There is always a new "you" emerging!
- The three phases of revelation.
- The simple power of expectation.
- Operating in the flow and ebb of life in the Spirit.
- How vision and dreams work and their purpose.

VOLUME TWO

## The Process of Prophecy

**WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS SEGMENT:**

- Moving in what you see.
- Developing the relationship between prophecy and scripture.
- Hearing the whispers of God.
- Becoming attuned to the faint touches of God.
- Impression engages the heart of the person prophesying with the Holy Spirit.
- Everything comes from God and returns to God.
- Developing quietness is a key to being prophetic continuously.
- Developing the rhythm of your own fellowship with the Lord.
- Starting where you are and giving what you have.

## VOLUME **2** TWO

# THE PROCESS *of* PROPHECY

**I**F PROPHECY, LIKE A WEBSITE, had a list of frequently asked questions, this one would top it: “When I’m moving in prophecy, how can I tell if it’s me, the Lord, or the enemy?” I’ve been asked that question many hundreds of times over my thirty years in prophetic ministry.

It is a legitimate question. We are human beings, subject to pain, disillusionment, hurts, dreams, aspirations, longings, and desires. We sort, delete, distort, and repackage the mound of information we receive every day. Our humanity can conspire against us and color a prophetic word with a different hue than God intended. We can give into the power of “me.”

We can also come under the influence of the enemy, either directly through bitter, unresolved issues in our lives, or indirectly through bad attitudes and a lack of good relationships. It is possible for a frustrated person to speak prophetically their own thoughts and opinions, mixing them with the words that God is really saying. The enemy can inspire that to happen and people could be moved by a spirit other than the Lord’s, but this usually happens only when people have buried their hurts and rejection in real anger. Their lives become fertile ground for enemy activity. Alternatively, the enemy can use our unyielded thoughts



and impulses, and as we speak out of our own soul, he can move in behind our words to cause mischief.

With these issues in mind, it is no wonder so many Christians fear polluting a prophetic word. How do we give a pure word of prophecy that glorifies the Lord, has no tinge from our hearts, and has no influence of the enemy attached? Further complicating this question is the issue of faith. Sometimes we may not be operating in complete certainty and we have to prophesy as far as our faith allows.

One thing can guarantee the purity of our prophecy—a large dose of humility. A humble spirit ensures that we will not seek to do anything to dishonor the Lord Jesus, discredit the ministry, or disrupt the body of Christ.

In this life, we either humble ourselves or we get humiliated. We either fall on the rock or it falls on us. Humility is not a natural characteristic in any of us. No one is born with it. Our relationship with God builds as we submit our lives, thoughts, and perspectives to Him. Our aim is to always live our lives in the best way possible, so that the Holy Spirit is made welcome in us. *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me,”* as David sang in Psalm 51:10–11. *“Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”*

If we prophesy in humility and make a mistake, the Lord will give us grace to face the issue and put things right. Mistakes are inevitable as we learn how to move in the supernatural. That is why Paul was so clear in 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21—*“Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good.”* We need to be able to sift and separate the good from the bad, the misguided, and the misinterpreted.

# AIMÉE SEMPLE McPHERSON

**Lived:** 1891 to 1944

**Prophetic Synopsis:** Born in rural Canada, Aimee accepted Christ at age seventeen in a revival meeting led by Robert Semple. Months later, she married Semple and traveled with him to China to spread the gospel there. Upon their arrival in Hong Kong, however, both contracted malaria. Aimee was a few months pregnant when Robert died.

**Alone, terrified, sick, pregnant, and just nineteen, Aimee called out to God. “Morning after morning of the month that followed, I would wake up with a scream as my great loss swept over me,” she said. “Then the Comforter would instantly spring up within me until I was filled with joy unspeakable, and my hot, dry eyes would flow with tears of love and blessing.” Aimee eventually gave birth to a little girl, worked hard, and made enough money for the two to return to America.**

**After remarrying, God called Aimee to preach. For months, she wrestled with that call. She had another child and eventually had a nervous breakdown.**

**As she laid in her bed, not sure if she was going to live or die, Jesus appeared to her and said, “Go preach My Word.” Aimee made excuses as to why she couldn’t, but Jesus was adamant: “Do the work of an evangelist. The time is short; I am coming soon.”** The moment she accepted the call, God healed her.

**Eventually, Aimee moved to Los Angeles and planted a church. She arrived in 1921 with just a tambourine and ten dollars, and opened a 5,300-seat church – debt-free – a year later. The walls of her church were lined with the crutches, wheelchairs, and canes of the people God healed. Her illustrated sermons were copied by Hollywood:** she rode in on a motorcycle once, and hired dozens of animals on another occasion. During the Great Depression, she set up a food bank and free store, helping 1.5 million people.

**Key Comment:** “All I could do was say one word when I prayed: Jesus!”

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**Sources:** Stanley Burgess and Gary McGee, editors, *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan (9th printing), 1996). Roberts Liardon, *God’s Generals* (Tulsa, OK: Albury Publishing, 1996).

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we must ensure that we live our lives in the best way possible. There must be no part of us that does not belong to Jesus. Our lifestyle must be full of rejoicing, meditation, prayer, healing, waiting on God, love, and expectation.

## REJOICING ALWAYS

Rejoicing is a key ingredient in moving in the power and presence of God. Many Christians have been conditioned to think that they enter God's presence with prayer. But Scripture is clear that thankfulness is the door to His presence—*“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name,”* says Psalm 100:4.

It is not a coincidence that rejoicing precedes prayer without ceas-

**AN ALWAYS  
REJOICING  
HEART IS THE KEY  
TO LISTENING  
TO GOD**

ing. Our stillness is dependent on our gratitude.

Whatever happens, we must thank God for the set of circumstances we are in. I'm not saying that we must thank God for something horrible that has happened:

Christians are not called to be masochists. However, we can thank God that He is always with us.

Rejoicing in God gives us the opportunity to hear Him. When we enter His presence with thanksgiving, we open more of ourselves to His voice. *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you,”* Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. When we want to know God's will for a situation, we begin by giving thanks.

Probably two-thirds of the rest of the world would change places with us in the West in a heartbeat, no matter how poor our lifestyle. To many, we are rich beyond their wildest dreams. Count your blessings;

there are so many things to give thanks for. If we struggle with being grateful to God for what He has given us, chances are we will be ungracious to people in how we live our lives. It is disciplines like gratitude, thanksgiving, praise, and worship that keep the presence of God fresh and alive in our hearts.

This is a fundamental spiritual truth that can reshape and reignite our personal time with God. By entering His presence with praise, not petitions, we learn how to adore God. Our hearts become full of constant, continuous worship. We are people called to be happy in God; if we don't have joy in our relationship with Him, how can we expect anyone else to?

As a Christian, who would you rather be represented by: the most miserable individual on Earth, or the happiest person in the world? This is the very choice God faces! Nobody wants to be represented by someone who is glum and miserable. Adoration helps us remain happy in God.