THE MAKING
OF A
PROPHET

Practical Advice for
Developing Your Prophetic Voice

JENNIFER LECLAIRE

Chosen
a division of Baker Publishing Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jennifer LeClaire, The Making of a Prophet
(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)
This book is dedicated to
all the prophets who refuse to compromise.
Contents

Foreword by Bill Hamon   9
Acknowledgments   11

1. Is God Calling Me into Prophetic Ministry?   13
2. I’m Called—Now What?   21
3. Are You Willing to Pay the Price?   27
4. No Two Prophets Are Alike   33
5. Pursuing Intimacy with God   40
6. Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me, Use Me   46
7. Facing Down the Tempter   54
8. Passion for Holiness   62
9. Purging Prophetic Pride   71
10. Rejecting a Judgmental Spirit   77
11. Renouncing Rebellion, Stubbornness, Control and Manipulation   84
12. Avoiding the Envy Trap   90
Contents

13. Identifying (and Eliminating) Wrong Motives 96
14. Overcoming Fear of Man 103
15. Responding to Rejection and Ridicule 111
16. Embracing the Glory of Persecution 118
17. The Battle Against Sexual Immorality 127
18. Living Victoriously in Warfare 135
19. Coming to Forks in the Road 142
20. Avoiding Spiritual Deception 148
21. Becoming One with Your Message 157
22. Mastering Ministering in Love 163

Index 171
Jennifer LeClaire has done an excellent job presenting *The Making of a Prophet*. I can verify the truths she presents, for I have functioned as a prophet for the sixty years of my ordained ministry and developed the 10 Ms for determining true and false ministers: *manhood, ministry, message, maturity, marriage, methods, manners, money, morality* and *motive*. These are the areas God works on in the making of a prophet. They are also the areas a prophet must keep in godly order to maintain and mature in his or her life and ministry.

Jennifer is accurate in saying that not everyone who prophesies is a prophet. There are five areas or levels of prophetic ministry:

1. The spirit of prophecy—Jesus' testifying to others through prophetic speaking (see Revelation 19:10)
2. The gift of prophecy (see 1 Corinthians 12:10)
3. The prophetic presbytery for laying on hands and prophecy for ordination (see 1 Timothy 4:14)
4. Prophetic preaching
5. The gift of prophet (see Ephesians 4:11)
**Foreword**

This book will help you discover whether you are a saint functioning in the spirit of prophecy, on which level every saint born of the Spirit may prophesy (see 1 Corinthians 14:1, 31), whether you are manifesting the gift of prophecy or whether you are called to be a prophet. This book is a must-read for every saint of God.

God bless you, Jennifer, for allowing the Lord to work in your 10 Ms and make you a prophet to the Body of Christ and the world.

Dr. Bill Hamon, bishop,
Christian International Ministries Network (CIMN);
Christian International Apostolic Network (CIAN);
Christian International Global Network (CIGN);
author, *The Day of the Saints* and ten other books
Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Jane Campbell, editorial director of Chosen Books, for believing in the importance of raising up pure prophetic voices in these days. I pray this book will forward that cause.

Many thanks to prophetic pioneers who authored many books on various aspects of the prophetic ministry. I learned from so many, including Dr. Bill Hamon, T. Austin Sparks and John and Paula Sandford. Their now-classic materials continue to teach many. I pray that this will build on the foundation they laid.

Lastly, many thanks to my early apostolic and prophetic mentors who helped me understand what it means to go through the making process.
Is God Calling Me into Prophetic Ministry?

When I got saved in the county jail, I had no idea there were modern-day prophets proclaiming the word of God to ordinary people. Sure, I was familiar with fortune-tellers and palm readers—I had even wasted hard-earned money on their foolish predictions—but real prophets? People who serve as literal mouthpieces for God Almighty?

Then it happened. Within days of accepting Jesus as my Savior, I encountered a bona fide prophetic ministry. A prophet visited the jail faithfully every week and delivered prophetic words to several women. He foretold who would be set free and who would serve longer sentences. He also laid bare the secrets of our hearts and drew us closer to Jesus. His accuracy seemed flawless.

Soon, I began hearing the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit in my own heart. I developed keen awareness of things that I knew only God Himself could have revealed. The Holy Spirit told me, for example, that I would be released on the fortieth day. That seemed impossible. Even though I protested my innocence—a police officer had falsely accused me of striking her because I had
asked her not to arrest my boyfriend—I had been denied bond twice, and the disagreeable judge was going to be on vacation well past the forty-day mark. My case was difficult to prove—it was the police officer’s word against mine—but the prosecutor was pushing hard for a five-year sentence.

God must have given me the gift of faith, because I was so confident about that prophetic word—which the Holy Spirit confirmed repeatedly—that I was emboldened. During a collect call to my crying mother, I told her with assurance that I was innocent and would be released on the fortieth day. I told my cell mates that I would be released on the fortieth day. Like the apostle Paul, I believed God that it would be just as it was told to me (see Acts 27:25).

I was released on the fortieth day, my innocence affirmed, without my ever standing before a judge.

A Prophetic Announcement

Despite that supernatural event, it took me a while to connect the dots and see the prophetic calling on my life. For years I continued to hear the voice of the Lord in my spirit with great accuracy. I even heard the audible voice of the Lord one time while on my knees crying out to Him during a crisis. But it never occurred to me that I had any particular prophetic gifting. I thought it was the normal Christian experience.

Then came a prophetic announcement that opened my eyes and dropped my jaw. It was during a time of spiritual warfare. I did not feel like going to church that morning, but I went anyway. At the end of the service an apostle prophesied this over me: “You are a voice of governing authority . . . a voice of governing authority. . . . I release that voice now, in the name of Jesus!” Well, I had no idea what “a voice of governing authority” was, but I accepted the prophetic word. I went home and tried to find something about it in Scripture.
As I opened my Bible, the Lord supernaturally took me to three instances in the gospels where John the Baptist speaks of “the voice of one crying in the wilderness.” When I opened my Bible, randomly, Matthew 3:3 was staring at me. After I read it, I flipped ahead and Mark 1:3 was illumined on the page. I flipped some pages again and the Bible fell open to Luke 3:4, which offered the same account of John the Baptist for a third time. It was what a mature prophet later described as a “threefold witness” from Scripture. I kept reading those verses and studying the call of John the Baptist, along with the government of God and authority.

It is clear to me now that the Holy Spirit was revealing a call to prophetic ministry. At the time I was yet unsure. The thought of a prophetic call was overwhelming and even scary. I kept all of this to myself and started searching for books I could read on prophetic ministry. Most of the books I read did not help much because they were about hearing the voice of God. (Hearing the voice of God was not my problem; how was I to speak it out?) I finally stumbled onto Bill Hamon’s Prophets and Personal Prophecy. Much of it was like glimpses of my own experiences on paper. After I read his trilogy on the subject, the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart and confirmed my call into prophetic ministry.

How Can I Know I Am Called?

There is a lot of confusion regarding the call into prophetic ministry. Many Christians are looking for confirmation. I get email frequently from people asking, “How can I tell if I am called to be a prophet?” This is an important question. In order to walk worthy of your calling, you first need to be confident God has called you. Once you are sure, you can count the cost and decide whether or not to embrace the spiritual battle that lies ahead.
Although I generally discount “checklists” that tell you whether or not you are an apostle or prophet or operate in some other ministry gifting, there are practical ways for believers to confirm a prophetic calling in their own hearts, which we will discuss in this chapter. And it is safe to say that if you are called into prophetic ministry, mature leaders around you will recognize that call eventually.

There are exceptions to that last point. Some pastors are too insecure to recognize the gifts and callings of those in their midst. But if you are called into prophetic ministry, be assured that people will discern that call in due season. You do not have to make an announcement, try to show off your prophetic gifts or otherwise strive to let people know. God will make it apparent in His time. In fact, waiting for Him to reveal your gifting in public ministry is part of the making process, the course of Holy Spirit training, teaching and practical experience that you will learn about through the pages of this book.

So, are you called into prophetic ministry? Here are two important points to help you address this question.

First, perhaps you received a prophetic word announcing your calling. That could well have been an authentic word, but take the time to look for further confirmation. I have seen prophetic words send sincere believers on spiritual goose chases for gifts and callings that Jesus did not impart. It is sad to see people hold tightly to an erroneous word they believe is genuine and miss God’s true call for their lives.

Second, perhaps you are consistently seeing revelatory gifts—such as words of wisdom, words of knowledge and discerning of spirits—manifesting in your ministry. That gives you a hint of your Kingdom vocation. It is actually a better indication that you are called to prophetic ministry than an announcement spoken, say, at the altar by a visiting prophet.

In the King James Version of Ephesians 4:1, Paul urges us to “walk worthy of the vocation wherewith [we] are called.”
That word *vocation* gives us insight into how a calling of God manifests. Another word for *vocation* is *occupation*.

Think about it this way: Doctors are educated and trained to practice medicine. That is what they do day in and day out. And they do not just practice medicine at work. They practice medicine at home when someone in the family gets sick. They practice medicine in a restaurant if someone passes out and they hear the cry “Is there a doctor in the house?” Even when doctors retire, they remember the Hippocratic Oath they swore to uphold. Whether they are in the church, the marketplace or the home front, doctors are doctors.

Likewise, if you are called as a prophet, it is an occupation. You cannot turn off the instinct to stand in the office of the prophet any more than a physician can turn off the instinct to help people heal. If you are called to prophetic ministry, you will walk in the revelatory gifts as a way of life, not just occasionally. You will feel the unction to walk in prophetic gifts consistently.

**Manifestations of Modern-Day Ministry**

If you have this ministry gift of being a prophet, what might it look like? We will study this in greater detail in later chapters, but, generally, the purpose of prophecy is to reveal the heart, mind and will of God.

Modern-day prophetic ministry is more than the usual public perception. It is more than prophesying over people in prayer lines. It is more than having dreams, visions and angelic visitations. Far more. Modern-day prophets are reformers, like John the Baptist. Prophetic ministry should bring positive change and hope. A reformation mindset is part of what it means to be prophetic. Prophets have reformation in their DNA.

Modern-day prophets are called to prepare a people for the Lord by pointing them to an intimate relationship with Jesus (see John 3:29), equipping them to discern His voice (see
The Making of a Prophet

Ephesians 4:11–12), speaking words of warning or correction that God gives them (see Matthew 3:2–3) and standing in the gap between man and God (see Ezekiel 22:30). Usually this latter function takes place through intercession. Not all intercessors are prophets, but all prophets are intercessors. It is part of the prophetic priestly duty to make intercession. The first time you see the word *prophet* in the Bible, it is in connection with intercession (see Genesis 20:7). You cannot separate the prophet from prayer because prayer is the prophet’s connection with God and His will.

Modern-day prophetic ministry involves turning the hearts of the fathers toward the sons and the hearts of the sons toward the fathers (see Malachi 4:5–6). The Amplified translation calls this turning a “reconciliation produced by repentance of the ungodly.” Prophetic ministry, thus, turns the hearts of believers toward the matters of the Father’s heart. Often, that means a cry for repentance as modern-day prophetic ministry works to separate the holy from the profane (see Ezekiel 42:20).

If you are called as a prophet, you will feel moved to root out and to pull down and to destroy and to throw down and to build and to plant (see Jeremiah 1:10). Intense spiritual warfare will be a frequent reality in your life. You will have a sense—a “knowing”—that you are being called to walk a narrower path than some around you. You will feel a sense of duty to honor God’s will and be crushed with godly sorrow when you misstep.

Are All Prophets?

Again, not everyone who receives a word about having a prophetic calling is truly called into the fivefold ministry named in Ephesians 4:11. The Bible states clearly in this verse that Jesus “gave some” to be prophets, and Paul asks rhetorically, “Are all prophets?” (1 Corinthians 12:29). Just because you get prophetic revelation or move in prophecy—even if you do these...
things frequently—does not necessarily mean you are a prophet. Anyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit can exercise the gift of prophecy as He wills (see 1 Corinthians 12:7–11).

Paul told the church at Corinth to “desire earnestly [covet] to prophesy” (1 Corinthians 14:39). Some young or inexperienced ones confuse that with coveting the office of the prophet. I cannot tell you how many on-fire Christians I have met who call themselves prophets yet have no discernible call on their lives—or how much email I get from people asking me how they can achieve the office of prophet.

There is a huge difference between willingness to be used by God to prophesy—the gift Paul commended to the Church—and coveting the office of prophet. Prophecy is a gift of the Spirit imparted to the Spirit-filled believer, and we should “earnestly desire” to manifest that gift for His glory. The Amplified Bible’s rendering of 1 Corinthians 14:39 clarifies the proper motive: “Earnestly desire and set your hearts on prophesying (on being inspired to preach and teach and to interpret God’s will and purpose).” Every believer should be eager to prophesy because it edifies, comforts and exhorts the Church—and the Church needs edification, exhortation and comfort.

The office of the prophet is quite a different thing. Jesus anoints prophets and sets them in the Church according to His will:

[Jesus] gave some to be to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11–13

You cannot make yourself a prophet. Jesus has to call you to this office—and even if He does, you still cannot “make”
The Making of a Prophet

yourself a prophet. God has to make you. If you are not called to prophetic ministry, there is nothing you can do to walk in that anointing. And if you try to force Jesus’ hand, you will simply invite the enemy in to offer you a false anointing that could ultimately lead you to a fiery fate.

I urge you not to jump to the conclusion that you are a prophet just because someone prophesies a calling over you or because you can cast out a devil or because you are a powerful prayer warrior. I assure you, if you are truly called into prophetic ministry, God will make that abundantly clear to you at the right time. Yes, He may use others to announce or confirm your prophetic calling. But He might just deal with you privately for years as He unlocks the mystery over your life one step at a time.

There are more than a few in the Body of Christ carrying titles without fruit in ministry because God has not anointed them in those particular areas. This seems especially true with the prophetic. Some chase the prophetic office like an idol. Others are trying to walk out erroneous prophetic words. Still others have sincerely misunderstood God’s call in their hearts out of a holy passion to serve Jesus. Jesus needs every believer in his or her proper role. He needs those who are called to be prophets to be confident in their call—and those who are called elsewhere to step into their true and equally important functions in the Body.

Rather than looking with natural eyes, look through the eyes of the Spirit. God calls some young and others old. Either way, if you are called into prophetic ministry, God has likely been preparing you to walk in this vocation even before announcing, confirming and activating it.