

AN INVITATION

**TO INCREASE**

IN YOUR GIFT

**BECOMING**

A NEXT-LEVEL

**PROPHET**

JENNIFER LECLAIRE

Foreword by SHAWN BOLZ

# BECOMING A NEXT-LEVEL PROPHET

AN INVITATION **TO INCREASE** IN YOUR GIFT

JENNIFER LECLAIRE



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I dedicate this book to the new generation of prophets that is rising—a generation that is pursuing His love more than man’s recognition, a generation that is cultivating a passion for Jesus rather than fulfilling the passions of the flesh, a generation that refuses to compromise with a world that is pressing for tolerance of what God calls evil. I believe this new generation of prophetic voices can help lead the Church into repentance and pave the way for the greatest Great Awakening the world has ever seen.

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# Foreword

The Bible so fixates us on the role of the prophetic and prophets that they end up being the most important, sought-after people in their day in the Old Testament. In the New Testament their role is just as unique and important, and they are not only highlighted but featured many times in title, story and theology. As a matter of fact, Paul emphasizes the gift of prophecy as the most important of all spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 14:1 because it helps us to connect most quickly to the love of God and because we get to hear His heart, process and intention for ourselves or the world around us.

When prophets emerge in society, they function much like who Jesus said the Holy Spirit will be to us: They are comforters, counselors, friends who help become navigation systems to humanity. They are people God speaks through, because God loves the world so much He sends His friends to speak into the heart of it. Time with a prophet may save someone therapy sessions, life-coaching times or even time with a master business coach or strategist in your industry. Prophets help bring spiritual clarity and direction and help us to bypass what is considered normal.

God is restoring the dignity of the office of a prophet and these amazing revelation gifts. People are becoming aware of what prophets can bring to the world, and this is causing a spiritual hunger to hear God's voice like never before. When prophets made an appearance in the Bible, they were never people who just heard from God for the sake of hearing information. They were not just gifted people either. They were the friends of God who understood His perceptions about reality and could relate His divine will and heart, not just information. I believe this generation is becoming aware again that there are prophets among us.

As you read this book by Jennifer, you are going to see the function, authority and role of the prophetic in this hour. One of my favorite lines as she defines the process is that "Prophets may be called from their mother's womb, but they are not born overnight." I have longed for practical tools about such significant topics such as prophets, and this is one of those very practical guides, but it is so profound because it imparts the spiritual culture that keeps someone in their lane as a prophet.

In some ways the role of a prophet is one of the most sacrificial of all the major roles you can take on in public or relational ministry. Prophets are the ultimate servants, giving without expecting a return on earth, but getting fed like Jesus with food that many people do not even consider: friendship with God. Because so little has been defined about the prophetic office, the road to it has been hard for many to navigate; this book will help keep the checks and balances of right thinking, good character practices and healthy process in front of you. Not only does it impart the principles, but then Jennifer takes you through practical steps to pray through, ponder and define for your own life about your own calling, lifestyle and practice. In some ways as I was reading it, I felt it was a discipleship manual for anyone who wants to carry the authority of Christ. She does a thorough job of taking you through a step-by-step process of

applying what it takes to walk into the level of anointing that will actually fulfill the hunger you have to experience God.

Ultimately that is it, though, right? God puts in us this incredible calling—a deep hunger for significance in walking with Him, spiritual gifts—and then we go on a journey to really manifest the greatness of what He has put inside us. As a prophet, there is this period between when you are walking in your Promised Land or in fullness and when you are learning who God is, who you are and how to love the people He has called you to. Jennifer helps to accelerate that process, and you will find yourself going to the next level so you can bring the world around you to the next level if you follow her example and writings.

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# Introduction

Do you want to get to the next level in your prophetic gifting? If your objective is to become a more accurate mouthpiece for God, to be more sensitive to His Spirit, to pray more effectively and to point more people to Jesus, then God is well pleased. Your motives qualify you to come up higher—and move deeper—in prophetic ministry.

I penned these pages for those who are not the sort of seers seeking fame and fortune. I wrote these words for those who are not the manner of mouthpiece who wants to make a spectacle of your spiritual gifts or the variety of prophet who vies for preaching invitations on the ministry circuit. I offer these revelations to those who just want to be good stewards of the gifts with which God has entrusted them.

Before you set your heart to progress in the prophetic, check your motives. The last thing you want to do is run your race for the wrong prize. The prize is not recognition. The prize is not money. The prize is not earthly. The prize is eternal. There is a price to pay to attain the prize, and only those willing to pay it will progress down the road to eternal reward.

Now, the only question is this: Are you willing to pay that price for progress? Wait; do not answer too quickly.

In his classic book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis wrote:

Progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man.<sup>1</sup>

Like Lewis said, if you are on the wrong road—if you have a skewed idea of the purpose of prophetic ministry and the lifestyle of a prophet—then turn back. Repent and seek God’s heart for the ministry He has given you and take the time to cultivate the character required to fulfill your call so you do not have to make a U-turn one hundred miles down the highway.

So again, are you willing to pay the price for progress? Wait; do not answer too quickly.

Let me first share with you some of the costs. Although I deal with this topic extensively in my book *The Making of a Prophet: Practical Advice for Developing Your Prophetic Voice* (Chosen, 2014), I will give you something to consider immediately: You will have to let go of some things—perhaps even some people—that are weighing you down. The painful reality is that you cannot always hold onto what you have and go where God ultimately wants you to go. In fact, you may have to set out on a journey with God in blind faith, not knowing where He is taking you or what you will find there. The prophet Abram had to do both.

God told Abram to leave his country, his family and his father’s home for a land He would show him. It was a drastic command, but there was a drastic promise attached to it:

I will make of you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless them who bless you and curse him who curses you, and in you all families of the earth will be blessed.

Genesis 12:2–3

Abram could not enter into the fullness of a prophetic covenant with God without leaving some old associations behind. Now, this radical move probably did not make any sense to Abram's family and friends. I am certain the prophet's choice was not honored among the people living in his Babylonian hometown of Ur, where people served false gods. I imagine he, like Noah, was mocked for following the voice of a God he could not see out of a then-modern city and into the wilderness. It probably did not even make much sense to Abram. But something in Abram knew that the promise was worth the price he had to pay. Abram did not fully understand it at the time, but Jehovah was calling him as a prophet, and he answered.

If you want to rise to the next level in the prophetic, you need to determine in your heart right now to set your face like flint and refuse to give up. Believe me, you will feel like giving up more often than you will want to admit. I have offered God my resignation letter on more than one occasion. He never accepts it. One time He told me, "I'm impressed at how you press through the pressure." The pressure is real and sometimes so intense that I find myself considering David's cry:

Give ear to my prayer, O God, and do not hide Yourself from my supplication. Attend to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint, and I murmur, because of the voice of the enemy, because of the pressure of the wicked, for they cause trouble to drop on me, and in wrath they have animosity against me.

My heart is in pain within me, and the terrors of death have fallen on me. Fear and trembling come into me, and horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! For then I would fly away and be at rest. Indeed, then I would wander far off, and remain in the wilderness. Selah I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest."

Psalm 55:1-8

The hard truth is God sometimes uses trials and tribulations to set the stage for our next level, because trials and tribulations make us more desperate to hear His voice and more willing to follow His Spirit. I am not saying He is the one who brings the trials and tribulations, though sometimes He will drive us into the wilderness, where we have to face our flesh and then overcome the enemy's temptations by standing on His Word.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus, our prototype Prophet, into the wilderness. There He was tempted by the devil after forty days and forty nights of fasting (see Matthew 4:1–11). Jesus had to stay true to the Word of God during this trial to fulfill His ministry.

Beyond the wilderness, Jesus was later tempted to abort His ministry a second time. You remember the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was praying while His best friends slept a few feet away instead of making intercession for Him. Indeed, the trial was so fierce His sweat actually became like great drops of blood (see Luke 22:44). I do not know about you, but I have not yet resisted to the point of bloodshed while striving against sin (see Hebrews 12:4).

The next-level ascension process is not for the faint of heart. If you want to climb to higher heights in prophetic ministry, you will be met with resistance from the enemy, resistance from people and resistance from your flesh. But know this: If you do not give up—if you keep pressing through the pressure—you will make progress toward perfection (maturation). You might not see it in your day-to-day walk with God, but the fruit will manifest, and it will glorify Him.

Now that you have considered some of the costs, consider the other side of the blade. Like a dull knife, a dull prophetic edge is dangerous. Cooking experts attest that it takes more force to cut through food with a dull knife because you have to apply more pressure, and that makes losing control of the knife more likely. A dull knife tends to slip on the surface of the object you are slicing. The result is often a painful injury.

True prophets and prophetic people need to sharpen their prophetic edge regularly so they do not cause a painful injury to those to whom they are ministering with inaccurate utterances. True prophetic words, like the written Word of God, are sharp.

For the word of God is alive, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart. There is no creature that is not revealed in His sight, for all things are bare and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:12–13

Are you ready to find out exactly how to sharpen your prophetic edge, cut your way through resistance and ascend to the next level? Although training seminars—the world’s equivalent to continuing education for professionals like doctors and lawyers—are worth the investment, moving into your next level is not merely about more training seminars. To be sure, it is more about your response to God, people, circumstances and your own flesh. I pray that as you read the words on these pages the Holy Spirit will show you the areas of your soul He is ready to work on so you can cooperate with the grace of God. Let’s get started.

# 1

## Your Prophetic Gifting

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me.”

Isaiah 6:8

Although the same Lord Himself calls all prophets, all prophetic giftings are somewhat unique because every prophet’s mission is unique. Exploring your prophetic calling can help you understand your prophetic mission and what it will take to prepare for and progress through each level on your way to fulfilling your God-given destiny.

The apostle Paul outlines the who, what, when, where and why of the prophetic ministry in Ephesians 4:11–13 (NLT):

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

So we see that Jesus gives ascension gift prophets to the Church for a critical function: to equip God's people to do His work and build up the Church.

The Contemporary English Version says, "Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, so that his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong" (Ephesians 4:11–12). I like the CEV translation because it brings the prophetic ministry to the modern day. Prophets are just as critical today as they ever were. That is why Christ is still choosing some Christians to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

It is not a calling for the elite. It is a call to dedicated, life-long service to the Body of Christ. And, as I mentioned in the introduction, there is a price to pay.

New Testament prophets are also called to edify, comfort and exhort (see 1 Corinthians 14:3). Prophets are called to stand in the gap and make up a hedge (see Ezekiel 22:30). Prophets have a heart-turning ministry—to turn the hearts of the fathers toward the children and the hearts of the children toward the fathers (see Malachi 4:6). Prophets are reformers. Prophets prepare a way for the Lord (see John 1:23) and separate the profane from the holy (see Ezekiel 44:23).<sup>1</sup>

With all this in mind, let's look at the calling, commissionings and missions of some prophets in the Bible. God chronicled the details of their callings on purpose. These callings and commissionings will show us that prophetic ministry manifests through different prophets in different ways. Though the foundation for prophetic ministry remains unchanged, God uses prophets in different roles at different times for different purposes.

## Do Not Get Ahead of God

Moses offers a sobering lesson for emerging prophets: Do not get ahead of God. Moses accurately sensed God's calling on



his life as a deliverer, but he stepped into his ministry in the wrong timing and in the wrong way. He had the purpose and the passion, but he lacked the spiritual maturity and wisdom to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

Here is a quick overview: Moses grew up in Pharaoh's household. When he came of age, he was grieved at how his people, the Hebrews, were toiling and laboring so hard for so little. When he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, his passion boiled up on the inside of him, and he took matters into his own hands by murdering the Egyptian (see Exodus 2:12). That was not God's will or God's way. Moses demonstrated he was not yet ready for God's high calling. He had a prophetic edge, but it was dull.

I see this happen a lot in today's prophetic ministry circles. Young believers—or even sometimes mature believers—stand in a prayer line while a visiting apostle or prophet boldly declares a prophetic calling in front of the congregation. Excited by this prophetic calling, these believers rush ahead of the commissioning of God and the wisdom of God and try to operate in gifts that are not yet fully developed without any training or supervision. Notice I said *try*. They, like Moses, may have a prophetic edge, but it is dull. It has been identified and activated, but it has not been sharpened.

When immature prophets race out into the ministry field without equipping or accountability, there is strong potential for twofold harm. First, the unseasoned prophet often prophesies inaccurate, soulish, incomplete or untimely words to hungry saints who are desperately seeking God's true direction for their lives. Some may be led astray by those utterances.

Second, the unseasoned prophet can step into a land mine of accusations over his or her ministry that can take a lasting toll on a true gifting. Indeed, too many unseasoned prophets have been labeled false prophets because they were not sent; they just went with admirable zeal and giftings they did not understand

how to steward. Unfortunately, even a pure heart can do a lot of damage to the prophetic ministry at large.

Now back to Moses. Moses murdered an Egyptian to defend his Hebrew brother, but the Israelites did not seem to appreciate the deliverance. In fact, one of them asked, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us?” (Exodus 2:14). God did, actually. God had Moses in mind as a ruler and judge over the Israelites. Moses sensed that burden in his heart, but he got ahead of God’s commissioning. The result: He had to hide on the back side of the desert for forty years before he would reemerge into his prophetic purpose. It was during this time that God prepared him to rise up as a deliverer.

Maybe you sense a prophetic calling on your life, but no one else recognizes it. Just be patient and ask the Holy Spirit to train you in the prophetic. Invest in prophetic training resources from reputable, proven ministries and, like Paul told Timothy, study to show yourself approved (see 2 Timothy 2:15). Begin to operate in some of the fundamentals of prophetic ministry, like prayer and intercession. Consecrate yourself to the Lord and commit to dying to self. In other words, feed the gift. Work with the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart. But do not get ahead of God, because that will only delay your destiny.

### **Moses’ Calling to Be a Deliverer**

After Moses fled to the desert in fear (see Exodus 2:15), he seemed to forget all about Israel. He got married, had children and tended his father-in-law Jethro’s sheep. Then, suddenly—have you ever experienced one of God’s suddenlies?—Jehovah came on the scene with one of the most unique callings we see in Scripture. Let’s read from Exodus 3:2–3:

The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and the bush burned with

fire, but the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.”

This was a test. Moses could have continued heading back to the west side of the wilderness. But he was spiritually sensitive enough to take notice of the strange sight.

I remember one time I was coming into my condo and I saw a smoking bush. It was the strangest thing. Following in Moses’ footsteps, I went to examine the matter. I was not taking any chances on missing the Lord. As it was with Moses, the Lord saw that I took notice of the strange sight and spoke an important message to my heart. What about you? Do you have spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear God in any circumstance? I am not saying God is talking through every strange happening. What I am saying is that we need to be spiritually in tune so we can perceive Him when He is talking.

My point is this: God can talk to you anytime, anywhere, through anything. Keep your spiritual eyes and ears on, and of course test all things and hold fast to that which is good (see 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Let’s continue reading the account, picking up at Exodus 3:4–10:

When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him from out of the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses.”

And he said, “Here am I.”

He said, “Do not approach here. Remove your sandals from off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

The LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. Therefore, I have come

down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me. Moreover, I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come now therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh so that you may bring forth My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

What a calling! Talk about exceedingly abundantly more than you can ask or think. Now, after this supernatural encounter with God, Moses did not puff up in pride and try to book meetings with Pharaoh to vindicate himself with the Hebrews in Egypt. While Moses got out ahead of God forty years earlier, this time Moses argued with God over his own ability to answer the call and fulfill the mission. Verse 11 tells us, “Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?’” In fact, most of God’s prophets responded to God’s call with similar feelings of unworthiness or fear. This is a proper reaction, in my opinion, because it demonstrates their humility before the Lord and their awesome calling, which is not to be taken lightly. The Bible says that Moses was the meekest man on the face of the earth (see Numbers 12:3). That should be the prophet’s reputation.

This is also noteworthy: In Moses’ case, the calling and the commissioning took place at the same time. It does not always happen that way, and I will venture to say that it does not usually happen that way. In other words, when God calls prophets today, they do not usually step onto a national scene and stand before pharaohs (or presidents, kings, prime ministers or other dignitaries) with prophetic words from God immediately. After the calling there is usually a season of preparation followed by

a commissioning to a smaller assignment before God takes the prophet to the next level.

## **Samuel Speaks into Government**

Samuel was called as a young boy. We know the boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under the authority of the priest Eli. In those days the prophetic word of the Lord was rare (see 1 Samuel 3:1). There were not many visions.

One night, young Samuel was lying in the temple, minding his own business, and the Lord called him. You know the story. Samuel did not immediately recognize the call. The Bible says he “did not yet know the LORD” (1 Samuel 3:7). How many of us are like that? God is calling us to do something, and we respond inappropriately—or we do not respond at all—because we just are not sure it was really God. Our hearts are right, but it takes us longer to get in line with God’s will because we are unfamiliar with the way the Lord is moving or speaking. We do not yet know the Lord in that way.

Eli did know the ways of the Lord. So the third time Samuel came running in obedience to what he thought was Eli’s beckoning, the old, dim-eyed priest caught on to what was happening and told the boy what to do. Thank God that in our ignorance His mercy continues to reach out to us. When God called Samuel a fourth time he followed Eli’s instructions and responded, “Speak, for Your servant listens” (verse 10). Then the Lord told young Samuel some disturbing news about judgment coming upon Eli’s family that may have made him wish he had rolled over and plugged his ears.

I can relate. When the Lord first called me into prophetic ministry I received lots of warnings about enemy assignments coming down the pike. I had dreams of the plots and plans of murderous religious spirits. I did not want to release these prophetic communications, and nobody really wanted to hear

them. Thankfully, I was surrounded by more mature prophetic voices who were able to help me process what I was hearing, learn how to pray it through and discern when, how and with whom to share the Spirit-inspired warnings.

Samuel did not have that luxury. The next morning, Eli asked Samuel what the Lord had said. The Bible says he was scared to tell Eli (verse 15). This was Samuel's test. Would he fear man more than he trusted God? Samuel passed the test and in doing so sharpened his prophetic edge. Indeed, young Samuel seemed to rise in his prophetic anointing and stature rapidly. The Bible says the Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and He let none "of his words fall to the ground" (verse 19). All Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord.

Samuel's mission dealt with leadership in God's Kingdom. Again, his first prophetic utterance was a judgment on the house of Eli (see verses 11–14). Samuel eventually became judge in Eli's place; he served in this role until the Israelites demanded a king so they could be like other nations.

Samuel continued moving in a governmental anointing. It was Samuel who anointed Israel's first king, Saul (see 1 Samuel 10:1). It was Samuel who mentored him. It was Samuel too who rebuked him for his disobedience to God (see 1 Samuel 13). When God grew weary of Saul's disobedience, He sent Samuel to anoint a new king, David (see 1 Samuel 16). Samuel also launched a school of the prophets to raise up the next generation of prophetic leaders (see 1 Samuel 10:5). Dealing with leadership issues, then, was a main part of Samuel's mission, and it was so from the first time God spoke to him.

### **Watchman Ezekiel's Warnings**

I can relate to Ezekiel's call. I remember being on a missions trip in Nicaragua and sitting on the top bunk of a hot tin-roofed dorm with unusual critters making unusual noises when the

Lord revealed that part of my purpose was to warn. It was with reverential fear and awe that I read Ezekiel's calling. As I mentioned just a moment ago, I had been delivering prophetic warnings for some time, but I always wished I had something more pleasant to say.

Do not get me wrong; it was not as if the Lord did not speak words of edification and comfort through me. But there was a season early in my ministry during which it seemed I was doing little more than delivering warning after warning after warning. I grew weary of it. I think others did too. It got to the point that when my pastor saw me coming with a prophetic word he seemed to hold his breath. He always received it, but he knew it meant warfare. So when the Lord directed me to Ezekiel's calling, I was both relieved and awestricken by the responsibility. With this revelation, I was able to embrace the call with humility instead of resisting it with dread.

When God called Ezekiel, he was minding his own business, just like Moses was when he encountered the burning bush. Ezekiel was exiled in Babylon with his Hebrew brethren when the Lord opened his eyes to visions of God. He saw the memorable "wheel within a wheel" vision and fell facedown. That is when he heard the voice of one speaking. The Lord told him in Ezekiel 2:3–6:

And He said to me: Son of man, I send you to the sons of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me. They and their fathers have transgressed against Me even to this very day. And as for the impudent and obstinate children, I am sending you to them. And you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." As for them, whether they listen or not (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns be with you, and you dwell among scorpions. Do not be afraid of their words or be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.

Ezekiel's calling brought with it grave responsibility. In the third chapter of Ezekiel we read that God appointed him a watchman to the house of Israel. God told Ezekiel to warn the people about what He was saying to the nation, and He explained the consequences of falling down on the job. Listen in to God's instructions to Ezekiel right before He sent him out with his first prophetic assignment.

Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel. Whenever you hear the word from My mouth, then warn them from Me. When I say to the wicked, "You shall surely die," and you do not warn him, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet if you warn the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity. But you have delivered your soul.

Again, when a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered. But his blood I will require at your hand.

Ezekiel 3:17–20

So we see that Ezekiel's mission was clear from his very calling. If we looked at Jeremiah's call, we would discover his unique mission there as well. The same holds true with Isaiah and other prophets whose callings are recorded in the Bible. Read about prophets like Elisha for yourself and see the test he passed as part of his calling (see 1 Kings 19:21). He left everything and did not look back. Some prophets were called from birth, like Jeremiah and John the Baptist. Others, like Amos, just had a powerful experience with God in the midst of their everyday lives (see Amos 7:10–15).



The important thing to remember is that Jesus gives prophets; the Holy Spirit gives prophecy. No matter how we are called, there is almost always a time of training and making between the calling and the commissioning. Then once we are commissioned and fully active in the prophetic, there is always another level of anointing, accuracy and authority to attain. We must always maintain a sharp prophetic edge. The making process never truly ends. You just keep going from level to level to level—or, as the Bibles says, “from glory to glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

### **Next-Level Prophetic Exercises**

Notice that Moses, Samuel and Ezekiel were all prophets of Jehovah. But each was called under drastically different circumstances and with drastically different missions. Moses and Abraham were much older when God called them, for example, than Samuel and Jeremiah were. Meanwhile, Ezekiel was about thirty years old when God called him as a prophet.

Prophetic ministry, then, has foundations and boundaries, but no two prophets are exactly alike. We may have similar callings, but God has a unique plan and a unique mission for each of us. It is up to us to press into it. You can begin with these crucial steps:

- ✓ Ask the Holy Spirit to unveil your unique mission to the Body of Christ so that you can continue moving from level to level to level, according to His will. Maybe you have already received prophetic words about what God has planned for your ministry. Perhaps you have received a prophetic glimmer of your ultimate purpose. God does not usually tell us all at once. (We probably could not handle it. We would get scared or puffed up in pride.) But I believe He does reveal what we need to

know about our callings and missions to motivate us to pay the price to get there.

- ✓ There are many aspects of prophetic ministry. God calls some with a bent toward reformation, others with a gift for deliverance, still others as seers or prophetic intercessors. Although prophets can function in all of these operations, recognizing how God tends to use you most will help you press into that gifting and further develop it.
- ✓ Increase the amount of time you spend in prayer and in the Word. No matter what level you are at, this will prepare you to go to the next level.
- ✓ Consecrate yourself to the Lord and commit to dying to self. Work with the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart.
- ✓ Feed the gift. Tap into prophetic training resources and other materials that help prepare you for the next level.
- ✓ Do not get ahead of God, because that will only delay your destiny.

God is depending on His prophets in this hour to answer the call, prepare themselves and complete their missions, while also equipping the next generation to do the same. In the next chapter, we will talk a little bit about what goes into the making of a prophet.