

THE WORD OF FAITH

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God Called Me to the Ministry of a Prophet

In 1959, I was preaching in El Paso, when I fell and knocked my elbow out of place. I thought the elbow was broken at first. One of the ladies of the church, who was a divisional superintendent of the hospital, told me that about this time each night, a leading bone specialist of the city was at the hospital. I said, "Let's go over."

As I was riding to the hospital, the Lord told me that the arm wasn't broken. I thought all in the car heard the Voice, but they said they didn't. But that is characteristic of a prophet. Did you ever notice the statement in the Old Testament, where it says, "And the word of the Lord came unto me saying"? Well, it couldn't have been audible, because if it had, there would not have been any need for the prophet to give it out. Everybody would have heard it.

The Lord said to me, "I'll talk to you later about it. I'll prepare everything at the hospital, and I'll make everything right at the church where you are holding the meeting. Just don't bother about a thing. The devil did it, but, I'll make it redound to my glory." I learned long ago, not even to touch it in thought life, when God tells me not to.

They put me to sleep. That was the only time I was in the hospital or had anything physically wrong with me for twenty-five years. I was prophesying all the time when I went under ether, and also when I came out. Praise God! And it was a blessed time. Beautiful poems and psalms given by the Spirit! The accident didn't cost me a

penny. Jesus had said, "I will provide and arrange it all." The bone specialist said, "Reverend, I don't think there will be any complications, but I think we'll keep you here over night or a day or two."

HE SEES THE LORD

A little later, I heard footsteps coming down the hall, toward my room. Now, I thought it was a nurse. The door stood ajar, so I looked up, expecting a nurse to come through the door. I saw white all right, but instead of it being a white uniform, it was a WHITE ROBE! IT WAS JESUS! I had my eyes wide open. Paul saw the Lord when he was converted. When his eyes were opened, he was blind. So he didn't see the Lord with his physical eyes. When that bright light shined, he shut his physical eyes. He couldn't see physically and it was three days later before he could. So therefore, he had to be seeing Jesus with his eyes shut. He saw Jesus in a spiritual vision; the eyes of his spirit were seeing Jesus. But there is such a thing as an open vision, by which we see Jesus or an angel with the eyes wide open. Actually, that vision in the hospital was the first open vision I had ever had. Now, Jesus had appeared to me several times, but always I fell into a trance. When you are in a trance your physical senses are suspended. You see into the Spirit realm. Four times I have seen the Lord in a spiritual vision.

Now, Jesus pushed the door open enough to come through, and then He pushed it back. I

can remember the sensation I had. I was sort of amazed, shocked, or something. I know my eyes bulged. I didn't say a word. A chair was facing the head of the bed. He came around to it, moved it back just a little, then sat down in it. He started like this: "I told you in the car, the other night . . .," and He reiterated what He told me then. He said, "What I told you has come to pass. I prepared the way for you."

I answered, "That's right, Lord." He talked to me for an hour and a half. The amazing thing is, that for an hour and a half, no one came to that room. Jesus added, "I told you not to think about it; not to bother about it." I replied, "I haven't even thought about it, have I Lord?" He said, "No, you haven't." Then He went on, "You got into trouble, because you got out of My perfect will. It was God's perfect will for Israel not to have a king in the days of Saul. You know that. But they wanted one, and so He permitted them to have one. Well, they were in His permissive will, but not in His perfect will and they got into trouble. Didn't they?"

Paul tells us in I Cor. 10:11, "And what is written aforetime is for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world are come." You have been in my permissive will for two years. I'm going to judge you out of your mouth. You knew you were a prophet and a teacher. This very year you preached in two conventions. In both of those district conventions, you said to the minister that that was your ministry. This is the third

time that I have had to deal with you about this. For that reason I have permitted you to have this accident. You may say to me now, 'Did You cause that accident?' No, I didn't cause that accident. Everything that hurts and destroys comes from the enemy. I permit some things, but I don't commission them. Satan causes them. I merely permitted this. You may say, 'Couldn't You have kept it from happening?' Yes, I could have kept it from happening, but I didn't want to. You had better be glad that you got off that lightly. It could have cost you your life. That is the reason many ministers die young."

"Many of God's people die prematurely, because they will not function in their place, in the Body of Christ. Self-will never pays off." Then He continued, "If you will stay in My perfect will, I can keep you and will keep you from sickness. I kept you for a quarter of a century. If anyone walks in My perfect will, I'll keep them from accidents. I will keep all of My people if they will let Me do it. I said to Israel that I'll take sickness away from the midst of you. Israel were My servants, but you are My sons and My daughters. If it wasn't My will for My servants to be sick, it certainly isn't My will for My sons and daughters to be sick."

"Many folk are like you. They have gotten out of My perfect will and there are things that have been permitted to happen to them. Always pray for people who go to the hospital. Always pray for folk who take medicine; always pray for people who are under a doctor's care. Some of them are not necessarily out of My perfect will from the stand point of disobedience; they just don't know that the perfect will of God is that they be healed."

"Because of the lack of faith, they do not receive or cannot receive what rightfully belongs to them. They are still My children, just like you are, even though you are disobedient. I'm

not going to forsake My children, under any circumstances. I'm going to do all I can for them, and all they will let Me do for them. When you pray for them, then that permits Me to speed up the healing process. That isn't Divine healing, but it is God working with them. I am not going to heal you instantly this time, and I'll tell you why. This is the third time I've had to talk to you about this. I'm going to let you wear that arm in a sling around your neck for a few days, so you won't forget so quickly. I am going to speed-up the healing process."

The doctor had told me that I had a compound fracture, and also how many weeks it was going to be before the arm would be out of a cast, and then how many weeks it would take for those muscles and leaders and ligaments to be reactivated. He told my wife that I would never be able to touch my shoulder again with that arm. The specialist said, "I don't know how much use you will have of the arm. We'll just have to wait and see. Naturally, it is impaired, and you won't have the use of it that you had before." But Jesus now said to me, "I am going to restore to you 99 per cent of the use of that arm. No one else will be able to tell it, but you will be able to tell it so that you won't ever forget anymore."

"The angel of the Lord touched Jacob and his thigh went out of place so that he went through life with his thigh out of place, as a reminder of how God had to deal with him. You put your teaching ministry first, and your prophet's ministry second. Every single place in My Word, the prophet is mentioned first and the teaching ministry, second.

In Ephesians 4:11, "And he (Christ) gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors, and some teachers." Second, in I Cor. 12:28, Paul said, in writing to the Church at Corinth, "God has set some in the church, first apostles, secon-

dary prophets, thirdly teachers." The third witness is Acts 13:1, "Now there were in the Church at Antioch certain prophets and teachers."

Jesus added, "You put your teaching ministry first, because you love to teach. Second, you see the great need of teaching, and it is tremendous. Third, the pastors encourage you to teach. Now, I gave you a teaching ministry and I want you to teach alright, but don't put the teaching ministry first. You reversed the order and put the teaching ministry first, and the prophet's ministry second, and finally, just left it off altogether. You are going to have to reverse the order, and you'll not be able to do it overnight. Go ahead and teach in the daytime, and use your prophet's ministry primarily in the night-time."

Many times I look out across a congregation when I minister, and see what certain individuals were doing a couple of days before. A pastor came into my service, and suddenly I saw that pastor standing by his desk, weeping and crying in desperation. I had never seen the minister before in my life. I told him what I saw. He said, "You are right, brother. That happened just like you said it did."

Now, I look over the crowd very often, right while I am preaching and see some things, but I don't say anything about it because you can't say anything about some things, for there are some people you can't help no matter what you see. And so I just leave them alone and go on and help those who can be helped.

You see, to constitute the office of a prophet, one has operating in his life a ministry, not just an occasional revelation. The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits, plus prophecy are manifested in his ministry. It takes two gifts of revelation, plus the gift of prophecy to constitute the office of a prophet.

There are pastors that are scared to death of me. They

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We are looking forward to our August seminar here in Tulsa which will run August 9 through August 18.

During July I will be teaching and preaching at Bro. Lester Sumrall's Camp Meeting in South Bend, Indiana. Following that I will be ministering at the Full Gospel Fellowship of Churches and Ministers at their International Convention in South Bend.

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**GOD CALLED ME TO THE
MINISTRY OF A PROPHET**

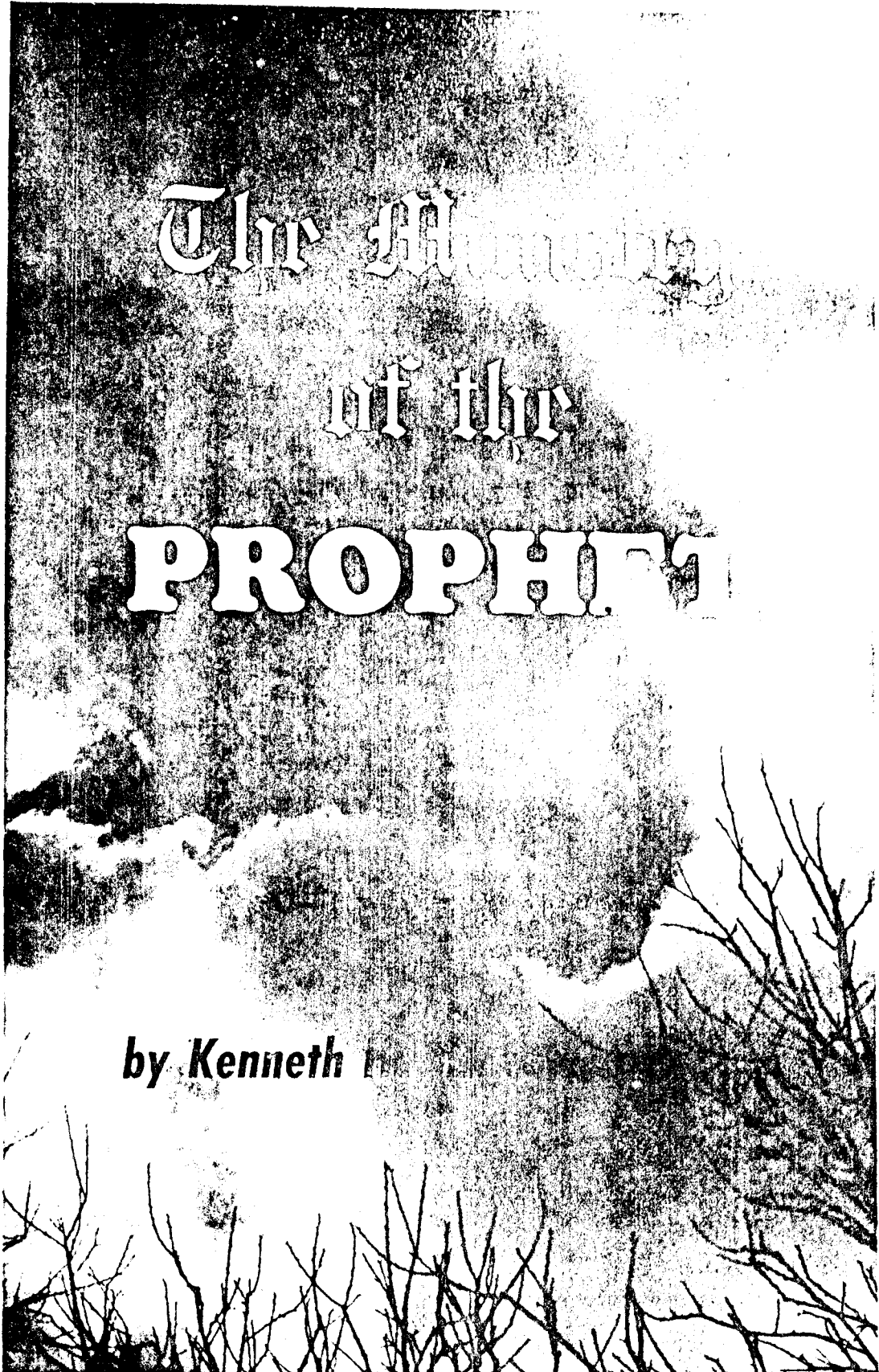
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would like to have me in their church, but it scares them. They say, "I don't know; he is so mystical. He's so far out. He is out in left field." Well, I don't know which field it is, but one thing about it, it's a spiritual field. Praise God! It's the field of God! Hallelujah! I smile and pray that God will bless their dear hearts; I have such a love for them, and I want to help them so badly.

The Lord went on, "Some say that we don't need a prophet's ministry. We've got the Holy Ghost in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, the king was anointed by the Holy Ghost to stand in his office. The priest had the Holy Ghost. But they still didn't have revelation gifts. They would still go to a prophet and ask him certain things when they wanted a revelation, didn't they? And they had the Holy Ghost. Today people are asking ministers about things to come. God wants His children to know for... He appointed some prophets.

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