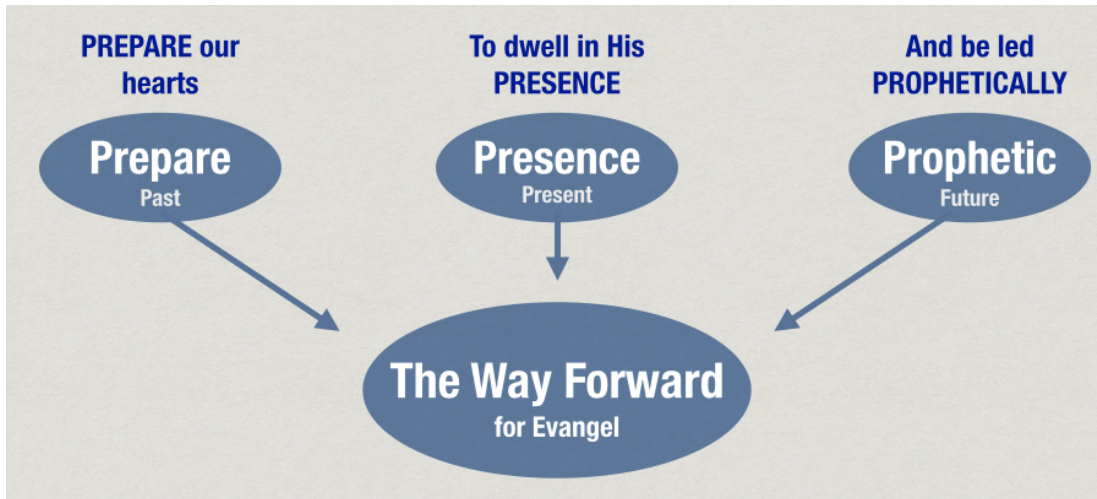


## The Way Forward for Evangel - Part 3

**“Prepare our hearts to dwell in His Presence and be led prophetically.”**



### - **Review:** The Way Forward for Evangel

#### • **Week 1...Prepare Our Hearts**

- **GOD IS PREPARING OUR HEARTS, NOT FOR AN ASSIGNMENT, BUT FOR HIMSELF...**No amount of physical preparation will make us ready for what is coming. The preparation that needs to happen is in our hearts, and the evidence of a prepared heart is confidence in God!

#### • **Week 2...To Dwell In His Presence**

- **Pay Attention...**to His Presence.
- **Listen...**for His Voice.
- **Respond...** to what we hear.
- **Re-envision...**now that you know what you know, act upon it!

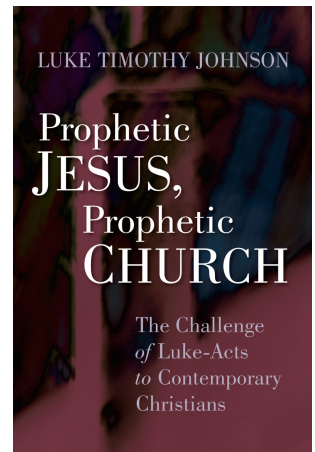
#### • **Week 3...And Be Led Prophetically**

### - **Tonight:** What Does It Mean For The Church To Be Led Prophetically?

#### • **Introduction:** The *Holy Spirit's Essential Role* in our lives, individually, and in the church corporately...

- To *prepare, equip, empower,* and *release* the church into its mission as a local congregation of Believers.
  - <sup>17</sup> For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—*makes us more and more like him* as we are changed into his glorious image. (2 Cor 3:17–18 NLT-SE)

- God hasn't changed, but we have to! We must not only **agree with Him** and **yield to Him**, but **cooperate with Him**, especially as we approach the return of Jesus.
- "40 Days with the Holy Spirit" by R.T. Kendall
- "Prophetic Jesus, Prophetic Church"
  - The premise of Luke Timothy Johnson's book.
    - **A surprise outcome...**At the time Luke wrote this his two-volume narrative (Luke-Acts) he had **no idea it would become scripture**, or that **it would become to completely separate writings**, or that Luke would become **one of the four gospel messages** and the book of Acts would become **the history of the first-century church**. In his book, "**Prophetic Jesus, Prophetic Church**," Luke Johnson reads Luke and Acts "as a single literary composition with coherence as a literary work and consistency in its religious outlook."
    - **This is how Luke Johnson describes his approach to the subject...**"The heart of my examination of Luke-Acts is the analysis of the portrayal both of Jesus and of the apostleship in terms of prophecy. Luke characterizes Jesus and the movement that bears his name in ways that anyone familiar with the biblical tradition should recognize as having the marks of the prophet: **being inspired by the Holy Spirit, speaking God's word, embodying God's vision for humans, enacting that vision through signs and wonders, and bearing witness to God in the world**. Reading Luke-Acts in this fashion demonstrates the profound degree of continuity between the two parts of Luke's story: it is from beginning to end a story about God's prophets. Indeed, if there is a difference between the Gospel and Acts, it is not that Luke portrays the church as an institutional betrayal of the radical Jesus movement. Quite the contrary; **Luke shows the church in Acts to be even more radical than the prophet Jesus**. Luke Timothy Johnson
  - What do we mean when we say "prophetic?"
    - "**Prophets are** the human beings who speak to their fellow humans from the perspective of God and, by so speaking, enable others to envision a way of being human more in conformity with God's own vision for the world...We need prophecy. **The church today particularly needs to hear the voice of prophecy in order to carry out its own prophetic mission.**" Luke Timothy Johnson
    - pro·phet·ic  
 præ'fetik/  
 adjective  
 adjective: **prophetic**
      1. accurately describing or predicting what will happen in the future. "his warnings proved prophetic"
      2. of, relating to, or characteristic of a prophet or prophecy. "the prophetic books of the Old Testament"
    - So, being prophetic isn't just "speaking from the perspective of God," but is also **helping others envision a way of living your life that is in "conformity with God's own vision for the world!"**
  - The "Prophetic Jesus" in Luke... It's impossible to read through Luke's account of Jesus' life and ministry and not see the prophetic importance in everything He accomplished. **His life fulfilled prophecy and He created the expectations in His disciples to do the same.**



Luke Timothy Johnson  
Author of "Prophetic Jesus, Prophetic Church"

- **The “Prophetic Church” in Acts...** In the same way that Luke’s story of Jesus painted a prophetic picture of His life, the book of Acts tells the unfolding prophetic story of the first Christians. The **“greater works”** Jesus spoke of in John 14:12 have now become a reality and the world will never be the same.
- **What does all this Mean to the Contemporary Church?**
  - “The dominant forms of reading among Christians are **individualistic**: the New Testament is read for what it says to “me” rather than to “us.” As in the Pentecost story, it is the **community** as such and not simply an individual that receives the spirit and speaks God's word.” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
  - **God wants not just a prophetic voice, but people who demonstrate a prophetic nature** (*Prophetic Embodiment*) This is what Jesus modeled, what the disciples caught and passed onto the first-century church. Now it’s up to us whether we embrace that same prophetic nature.
  - **Prophetic embodiment:** the spirit-led person's own character conforms to the word of God, meaning the prophet lives out bodily **the vision for humanity that God intends.**” *Luke Timothy Johnson*

*42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer. 43 A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. 44 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. 45 They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. 46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord’s Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— 47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42–47 NLT-SE)*
  - **Poverty and the Sharing of Possessions**...Jesus speaks to the poor as one of them. Luke shows him **embodying poverty** even as he proclaims God's rule to the poor.
    - Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, “God blesses you who are poor, for **the Kingdom of God is yours.** (Luke 6:20 NLT-SE)
    - “The mark of true discipleship in Acts is the **sharing of possessions**, especially with those most needy. The greatest difference in this part of Luke's narrative is that such sharing is embodied by the practice not only of individuals (Peter, Barnabas, Tabitha, Cornelius, Paul), but by the community of disciples as such.” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
  - **Mobility**...Closely related to Jesus' poverty is what Luke Johnson calls His "itinerancy.” He does not have a place He calls home. **Instead, the bible shows Him constantly on the move.**
    - Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has **no place even to lay his head.** (Luke 9:58 NLT-SE)
    - “This constant movement and mission depicts a church that **responds to the promptings of the spirit** and is not defined in terms of place; the church emphatically continues the **prophetic style of itinerancy** practiced and commanded by the prophet Jesus.” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
  - **Prayer**...Every significant moment in Jesus’ life is marked by prayer. He prayed after His baptism, when He was tempted by Satan, at the Transfiguration, at the Last Supper, and even on the Cross.
    - Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34 NLT-SE)

- “The prophetic leaders and the community as a whole engage in prayer, not as a matter of formal ritual but as a matter of prophetic consciousness: ***prayer is the place above all where empowerment by the Holy Spirit can happen.***” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
- **Servant Leadership**...Jesus shows no discrimination in choosing His disciples, only that they believe. He moves toward Jerusalem, where He would soon face death, consistently gathering disciples around Him and teaching them how to: pray, use resources to care for one another, and not give up hope. When Jesus enters the city, “***all of his followers*** began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen” (Luke 19:37).
  - “The ***most impressive example of servant leadership*** is displayed in Luke's long narrative about the beginning of the Gentile mission, first with Peter's baptism of Cornelius's household (10:44-48), then with anonymous Hellenists preaching directly to Greeks (11:19-21), then with an expanded mission through Paul and Barnabas (13:1-14:28). At each stage, Luke shows the interplay of experience, narrative, and the discernment of God's plan, carried out by all the leaders involved (see 11:1-18).” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
  - “Servant leadership, finally, makes the most powerful statement, that ***the measure of the kingdom is not the measure of the world*** and that ***the function of power within the prophetic people is to empower others.***” *Luke Timothy Johnson*
- **The Challenge:** How It All Fits Together
  - **Preparation...*****End-Times Preparation*** will give us the understanding and resolve to navigate the waters ahead.
  - **Compassion...*****“Strengthening Families”*** provides an opportunity to participate with God as He supernaturally brings healing and restoration to our communities.
  - **Prayer...*****The House of Prayer*** gives us a venue for engaging with God together and seeking strategies for advancing the Kingdom of God.
  - **Worship...*****Valuing Time In His Presence*** opens the door for a deeper and more intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit.
  - **Relationship...*****Sharing Meals and Resources*** will create an expectation of interdependence and trust.
  - **Witness...*****“PDA” Public Displays of Affection*** for Jesus, like few other things, will give people hope in the midst of a culture that is experiencing overwhelming despair.
- **One last thing...VISION!**
  - Prov. 29:18 (ESV) Where there is no ***prophetic vision*** the people cast off restraint.
  - Prov. 29:18 ( NLT) When people do not ***accept divine guidance***, they run wild.
  - Prov. 29:18 (NIV) Where there is no ***revelation***, the people cast off restraint.
  - Prov. 29:18 (MESS) If people can't ***see what God is doing***, they stumble all over themselves.