I Will Speak, I Will Risk

Pamela Marais 28 June 2016



About 18 months ago, as my precious middle daughter, Abby, was leaving our home after a time of prayer together, she said, 'Mom, I really feel like you need to step out more in the prophetic.' At first, I was honestly a little offended and not quite sure what to make of what she had said. Although I had prophesied occasionally in the past, it was definitely not 'my gift'. In my mind I began to raise my defense that Scripture says we all have different gifts, I love to serve practically and teach the scriptures, but I'm just not the prophetic type.

To me, the prophetic type all seemed to be the artsy type of people (right-brain people), with vivid imaginations, whereas I am quite clearly a left-brained person (logical). Besides, prophecy is a risky business and one of my biggest fears has always been the fear of misrepresenting God. I was afraid of speaking my own desires and words over people.

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I did not want to speak out and 'prophesy' unless I was one hundred percent sure that what I was saying were the words of God. What helped solidify my position was my own experience – I had been with the church a long time and had received many prophetic words, and many were simply not accurate. Nope, it wasn't for me, I was going to stick to studying and sharing the Scriptures. But despite all these thoughts bouncing around inside my mind, I still had a deep and

growing longing to encourage people more effectively. So my 'love-hate' relationship with the prophetic continued.

A little while later, God gently confronted me once again with His Word in 1 Corinthians 14, especially verses 1 and 5. I began to once again 'eagerly desire to prophesy', fighting the feelings of intimidation as I observed those who seemed to operate easily in this gift. I even arranged to have tea with Melanie du Toit (a prophetess) and I shared my desire with her. She promptly invited me to join her on her next 'prophetic assignment'...this was not what I wanted to hear and I was (very) relieved that I was unable to make the date.

Soon after this, it was time for the Four12 European Conference in the Isle of Man and, 'lo and behold', the very strong emphasis was on the prophetic. Many of the 'team' that had come to join for this time were very gifted in this area. In one of the early sessions at the conference, Andrew Selley shared on the manifestations of the Spirit during times of revival, and mentioned the gift of prophecy and how he believed that Four12 as a movement of churches would be known as a movement where every saint prophesies. Many people were given prophetic words over the conference time, including Will and I.

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The prophetic word that I received began something like this: 'I am opening up the prophetic well within you...'. Directly after this word, a few ladies continued to minister over me prophetically, addressing things that have stopped me from prophesying in the past. I repented of my unbelief and was challenged to say out loud, '**I will speak, I will risk'**.

For the remainder of the conference week, these same ladies kept encouraging me to step out and prophesy with my measure of faith (which I believe will increase as I exercise it). I did. I took the faith I'd received and stepped out as often as I was able.

So the journey continues. I am still nervous, but I am determined to use my one talent and to refrain from comparing myself to others who do it better or differently (the gift of the prophetic has so many different expressions). Along with this, I will continue to treasure the Scriptures in His presence, knowing that the gift of prophecy is not in competition with Scripture, but rather flows out from them.

So thank you, Abby, for the initial challenge to step out more in the prophetic, which I now understand is simply praying and speaking God's desires for individuals and His church. My hope continues to be that I will be used by God to edify His people.