

Watch Out for These Risks of Prophecy-Driven Churches

Editor's Note: This is Part 2 of a two-part series. [Click here](#) to read Part 1.

The Shallow Will Revolt

When you transition your church into the deep realm of the prophetic, those who have been comfortable and who wish to remain that way will resist. You have to be ready for this. Accusations will fly as their flesh feels the fire of your devotion.

An Absalom spirit will very possibly emerge from within the ranks, and the battle will be fierce. You may be accused of promoting elitism, being religious or being careless. Are you ready for the fight against a very focused enemy? Love people deeply, but don't entertain the dark strategies of Satan. Those who are shallow have been conditioned by the enemy of their souls, and the risk of the devil losing them to a life of radical surrender is one that won't be taken lightly.

Narrow Focus

Many (most) programs, ministries and focuses of old will be let go in favor of prayer and the prophetic strategies God assigns. Those who have found their identity in those programs may become angry, disillusioned and disruptive as you prune what they hold dear.

You have to understand that most people have an aversion to vibrant, Spirit-filled prayer, and since you are taking your church into that exclusive, focused direction, these people will fight against the move.

The Enemy Will Be Provoked

You had better get ready. As I mentioned, Absalom is ready to move skillfully through some of your most devoted members. I'd encourage you to read my articles on how to deal with that crafty spirit here and here.

(I wrote an e-book on it as well. I'd like to give it to you as a free gift, in this article only. Click here to download it.)

Of course, there are many other ways the enemy will initiate an assault against you and your church as you become tuned into the Spirit of God as a prophetic people. Ignoring him won't work. You must be alert, discerning, skilled and ready to respond. If you aren't prayed up and if you don't walk in strong governmental, apostolic authority, you will most definitely struggle.

It's important to develop a trusted intercession team to surround you as the leader and also to identify governmental strengths in others on the team. You will all need to fight together in great unity.

Other Pastors Will Be Provoked

A supernaturally vibrant body will absolutely threaten other pastors in the region. I could tell you several sad (and repulsive) stories of other pastors who were incredibly reactive to ministries that are apostolic and devoted to the prophetic and prayer.

You need to love and bless these men and women of God even if they don't support you and even if they resist you. God will use them to test your heart. God will also link you up with others in the city who are on board with a fresh prophetic advance.

You cannot go it alone. Pastors who aren't actively involved with other leaders in the city in an ongoing fashion should cause some red flags to fly.

You Will Be Misunderstood and Resisted

Anybody who goes against the stream, who cuts against the grain and who calls out dead, tired systems will be marked as a troublemaker. Troublers of Israel.

You must learn to love deeply or you will be taken out by bitterness.

The Critical Need for Revelation-Driven Churches

New Wineskin

The old wineskin must be put away. It simply cannot contain the new wine that the Holy Spirit is pouring out. This revival spirit will offend many and awaken many others. The current system isn't designed to facilitate what God is wanting to introduce.

Boring, Predictable, Powerless Church

The predictable church model that we are all too familiar with today simply has to come to an end. It must be replaced by prayer meetings and governmental, apostolic focus.

God Needs to Reveal His Plans

I have often wondered how in the world any pastor or leader can lead a church without an intense, continual, comprehensive and saturating prophetic culture. How do you know what to teach? How can you address the plans of a crafty, invisible enemy? How can the people hear God's voice? It's nonsensical. The new wine, revelation-driven church must have its ear to the mouth and heart of God so it can respond moment-by-moment to His directives.

A Highly Trained Army Is Needed

Every person in the church must have a never-ending tremble in their spirit as they live night and day in the place of

intercession. The Spirit of God will train the church in the place of prayer and prophetic instruction. This army will know how to hear God's voice, how to change culture, how to move in authority and how to respond in unity.

Culture Is not Effectively Challenged

It's disgusting how the church has failed to confront the spirit of the age today. Homosexuality has become not only normalized but legalized while people of faith are now at risk of being imprisoned for standing in opposition if certain legislation passes in our nation. Where is the church? Where are those who are highly skilled and who know how to hear God's supernatural instructions on how to advance?

The church in its current state absolutely cannot fight this invisible war.

The Harvest Will Have no Patience for Church as Usual

The lost clearly have no desire to integrate into the current church system. The found don't want to integrate either. Both are looking for a church on fire, a power center in the region.

Eunice, a Facebook friend, said this after reading my introduction to this article:

Oh ... John Burton have you ever hit the nail on the head. We ARE waiting. We are homeless. We search to no avail. God is opening our voices with a tremendous end time roar. We need this desperately. We feel lost and so out of place.

It's time for revelation-driven churches to emerge and for the old wine skins to be folded up and put away. The lost and saints alike are longing for a burning, vibrant, Spirit-driven experience that will shock the nations and call down the fires of revival. {eoa}

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