

## **Prophetic Revelation, Whistleblowing and Liberation**

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July 7, 2023

I am going to loop back to where Bob started with the commissioning of disciples by Jesus.

“Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness” (Mt 10:1).

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. (Mt 10:7-8).

I love how this mandate is so holistic, and all encompassing. It involves announcing the Good News along with healing the whole person (body, soul, spirit). It includes things like mental health, relationships of all kinds, view of God, others, self, and the planet.

This command of Jesus is so amazing--yet it is so terrifying. Because Jesus does not ask us to ask Him to do it. Sometimes we pray, “Lord if this is your will to heal this person, then please do it.” NO! He just tells US to do it!

As disciples of Jesus this same authority is available to us as well, but many of us feel reluctant to exercise it. Why? Because when we don't see the results, we hope for, we feel shame. We feel discouraged. We hate to disappoint people. So, we often give up praying for healing. But if we never pray for people's healing, one thing is certain: we will not see healing.

In our church we encounter people affected by rejection, abuse, trauma, addiction, homelessness, gang life and incarceration. Most people need support and often request prayer. This is what led us to pray for healing-and eventually for deliverance. Not because it was our idea, but because we were asked to do so. And because Jesus commissions us as he does all his disciples.

As we pray, with one 'ear' we listen to the person in front of us, and with the other 'ear' we try to tune in to prophetic revelation from the Holy Spirit.

I'll give you an example of what a prayer appointment can look like.

One day Bob and I got a request from a young man--one of our interns at Tierra Nueva. He said he was struggling with porn and lust, from which he wanted freedom.

As Bob and I were walking to the place where we were meeting for prayer, we asked God for revelation about anything that would help us to understand the root of the young man's bondage.

Right after that, Bob got the word "tiger spirit," which seemed random to him, and he doubted whether he was hearing accurately from God because this didn't seem to have anything to do with an issue with lust or porn.

But we've come to learn that God has a certain order for how freedom is going to take place most effectively with a person. That's why we listen to the person but also to God so we can understand the root of the matter.

Sometimes what the person says seems to conflict with what God reveals, and on top of that Satan can bring in false leads and distractions to mess up the whole process of liberation. That's why we really need help from the Holy Spirit to discern the truth of the matter.

As we identify the root, we get revelation for the order of how God wants to bring about liberation.

So, getting back to the prayer appointment: Before we began, I offered the young man a cup of coffee. (You'll see why I add this detail in a bit).

We asked him to briefly tell us why he came for prayer, and we invited the Holy Spirit to be present. We noticed he became agitated and there was tension in the air. I mouthed to Bob "tiger," as I was sensing in my spirit that what Bob had received was the direction we should go.

Bob then asked him whether there was anything in his past related to tigers, as he had received “tiger spirit” when we’d asked God for specific direction.

He looked quite taken back, thought for a second and then said, “well actually, that’s crazy that you mention this because this does resonate with me.”

He then went on to tell us how he had been adopted by a Dutch family when he was a baby. He was from a Native American background and was short with dark hair. Whereas his older brother, the biological child of his adoptive parents had blonde hair and was much taller than he was. His older brother was mean to him, treating him like he was inferior. This was always a source of pain for him.

One day they went out to a Chinese restaurant for a family meal. He noticed on the menu the Chinese Zodiac signs by birth years. It was then that he saw that he was the year of the tiger, and his brother was the year of the rat. He loved that he was associated with the tiger and his older brother with the rat and began to reflect on this a lot, and to identify with the tiger—it’s strength, stealth, and power to dominate all the other animals.

As the years went by, he got into more and more fights, and ended up getting involved in drugs and spent time in jail.

Bob and I acknowledged that he’d effectively just confessed his unhealthy identification and attachment with the tiger, and the Chinese Zodiac’s link to his character.

We talked with him about how his experience of abandonment and rejection from his birth parents and adoptive brother made him vulnerable, since his identity was unclear, making him especially insecure. He could easily see this and stated that he’d reacted to this rejection with anger, hatred, and rage. His stating of all this served as further confession, which functioned to “close” these entry points.

God’s words to Cain in Genesis 4 came to mind, which I shared with him, reading: “Sin crouches at the door, and its desire [literally, lust] is for you. But you must master it.”

At this point I suggested that if he hadn't already deliberately turned away from the tiger as his source of power, which had become a kind of IDOL, it would be important to do this. He agreed that he wanted to do this but found himself feeling suddenly quite agitated. Bob and I realized we had entered spiritual warfare as Satan did not want to let go of this man, so we started praying under our breath. Then I noticed Bob raising his hand up slightly to shield himself, as the man seemed to be clutching his coffee cup like he was going to throw it at him. He then said:

"I don't know what you guys are praying, but I feel like shoving this coffee cup through your face."

So I asked him to hand it over to me and we invited him to ask Jesus for help and to exercise his own authority as a son of God, and evict the unclean spirit from himself. We prayed with him and coached him as he renounced and commanded the evil spirit to leave him in Jesus' name. At this point Bob got the word "Bengali tiger," and asked if that meant anything to him.

"Yes," he said. He'd studied this exact tiger that he identified with and was obsessed with because it was the most fierce and cunning of all tigers.

Soon he was able to take a stand against this in a more precise way.

(It seems that with precise revelation and NAMING of an evil spirit, comes deeper freedom).

We found it necessary to address his experience and feelings of rejection and abandonment, speaking to him about God's radical acceptance, and love. Then we invited him to also turn away from rejection, abandonment, anger, rage, and self-hatred.

Since he was eager to get free, we saw him get some visible liberation. He later told us that his wife noticed his whole attitude changed and she found that he was much more at peace and easier to live with.

A year or so later they moved to another part of the Country and have been serving as missionaries to the homeless and addicted, and people living in low-income housing projects. Two days ago, we called him, and he told us that this prayer appointment stood out as bringing him significant freedom, and how he and his wife now pray for other people's freedom regularly now.

This is an example of how the Holy Spirit uncovers that which is hidden through providing specific revelation that could only be known through the Spirit.

#### SIBERIA MIRACLE STORY:

A few years ago, Bob met a young Russian man in the jail named Andrey, who came to faith in his Bible studies. After serving his time, the Immigration and Naturalization Service deported him to Russia. A few years later he contacted Bob through Facebook, stating that he was living in Siberia, had attended a Bible school, and was involved with a recovery house church movement. He'd told his Pentecostal bishop about us, and they wanted us to come to Krasnoyarsk (Siberia) to minister to their people. We weren't sure about this since Andrey was in his mid-twenties and had no experience hosting people. But we felt that this invitation was from God. Soon we got our visas, and we were off to Russia. When flying over Mongolia we were praying, and felt we were going to pray for someone with Hepatitis C.

The morning after we arrived in Siberia, Andrey picked us up from our hotel and took us to a conference in an impoverished neighborhood where one of the recovery churches had men's and women's rehab houses and a newly constructed church. After the worship and first teaching session Bob asked if anyone there had an active case of Hep C. If they did, he invited them to come up for prayer. About 40 people came forward for prayer, including the 5 or 6 pastors present. When we prayed for the people, we were surprised to see them visibly overcome by the Holy Spirit, stating they felt burning heat in their livers. On two subsequent trips we heard that many had been tested and were declared Hepatitis C free!

On the last day of our time in Siberia we were ministering in a large church. Bob had noticed a young man bent over, shuffling along at the back of the church. He was deeply moved by this man. I saw him too and found myself focusing on him.

We were at the same time intimidated by his condition, and there were plenty of other people to pray for. That evening after our final session we invited everyone to come forward in a line for prayer, walking between us and four other pastors as we briefly laid hands on people to bless them. Suddenly I noticed this young man shuffling along, bent over before us. We prayed for him and didn't see any visible change. Through the night I found myself feeling empowered like I'd never experienced before, to break the chains of the enemy, in Jesus' name, to set him free.

The next morning was the final Sunday service, after which Andrey was taking us 3 hour's drive to the airport. After preaching and ministering, an older Russian woman came up to us talking enthusiastically. We thought she wanted prayer, but Andrey told us she had come to thank us for praying for her son who was standing up straight for the first time in his life! We asked who this was, and Andrey told us it was the young man who had been hunched over. We asked if they could bring him to us and we were shocked to see him standing upright, visibly healed. We learned that he had had Cerebral Palsy from birth. Here's a video clip of him standing before us.