

## AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Prophecy & Alignment (1 of 2)  
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Text: John 15 & 16  
Date: May 12, 2021

### Introduction

2021 is our year of Spiritual Alignment. Glory be to God, we started the year with a 21 day fasting and prayer challenge. Hopefully we all participated in the effort which was called our Journey to Spiritual Alignment. So may we dare ask ourselves “how is it going?”...

**Question: How has the 21 Day Challenge shaped my 2021 Journey so far?**

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### What does it mean to be aligned?

The notion of alignment essentially means that we choose to take the Lord’s side. We choose to have His perspective and we are intentional about fulfilling His agenda. When we seek Him this way, we are declaring to God that we want a deeper relationship with God. This has a very tangible benefit in that God also responds in kind and chooses to draw nearer to us (James 4:8). The Psalmist also said that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him (Psalm 145:18)

The result then of proper alignment with God is that we develop an intimate relationship with Him. This is most pleasing to God as He demonstrated His heart by ripping the veil of the temple from top to bottom when Jesus died (Matthew 27:50-51).

### How do we know when we are aligned?

- **When we are obeying God’s word**

God never intended for us to obey Him in isolation. Infact He knows it is impossible for us to obey Him without His help!

*Yet we don’t see ourselves as capable enough to do anything in our own strength, for our true competence flows from God’s empowering presence. 6 He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law but through the power of the Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life. (2 Corinthians 3:5-7, TPT)*

*For the law[i] has never made anyone perfect, but in its place is a far better **hope** which gives us confidence to experience intimacy with God! (Hebrews 7:19)*

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the **hope** to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms*

- **When we know His voice**

The more we obey Him, the better we are able to discern His voice. *My own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one, and they will follow me (John 10:27, TPT)*

**Question: How do you personally hear His voice?**

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- **When we know the stranger’s voice**

*But they will run away from strangers and never follow them because they know it’s the voice of a stranger.” (John 10:5, TPT). When we are aligned, we can also hear from God without needing to hear from another person i.e. words through others serve as mere confirmatory words.*

## Question: How can you practically tell the voice of the stranger?

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### **Linkage between Alignment and Prophecy - How does alignment open up access to prophecy?**

So which comes first...prophecy or alignment? Once you are in tune and have a proper posture for hearing God, prophecy is more relevant/effective. Prophecy was never meant to be transactional in nature...prophecy can only be effective when it is based on relationship.

### **Relevance of Holy Spirit to prophecy**

- **What is purpose of prophecy?**

*According to scripture, prophesy is a gift of God to help promote our spiritual growth, speak words of encouragement and uphold and advise us concerning the matters of God in addition to comforting us with His compassion (1 Corinthians 14:3, AMP)*

- **Prophecy is a natural expression of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is constantly seeking the glory Jesus and prophecy is one of the way He goes about it.**

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:13-14, NIV)*

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God (1 Corinthians 2:12)*

- **Alignment with God in the person of the Holy Spirit activates and illuminates the prophetic channel**

*For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Revelations 19:10).*

As read above, the Holy Spirit delights in making the word of God come alive in our lives and this is one of the greatest blessings of spiritual alignment

- **Holy Spirit makes scripture relevant**

As discussed above in 2 Corinthians 3:5-7, the letter kills but Spirit gives life. Without the understanding and clarity that the Holy Spirit provides, the scriptures could appear to be contradictory. For example, one of the frequently asked questions in the scriptures is whether it is ok to ask God for a sign. With that we look at some biblical examples (King Ahaz, Gideon, Prophet Zechariah).

*Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"*

*13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:10-13)*

*How can I be sure of this?" Zechariah asked the angel. "I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years." (Luke 1:18)*

*Then Gideon said to God, "If you are truly going to use me to rescue Israel as you promised, 37 prove it to me in this way. I will put a wool fleece on the threshing floor tonight. If the fleece is wet with dew in the morning but the ground is dry, then I will know that you are going to help me rescue Israel as you promised." 38 And that is just what happened. When Gideon got up early the next morning, he squeezed the fleece and wrung out a whole bowlful of water. Judges 6: 36-38*

## Question. Did God respond the same way in all three situations?

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