



Episode 023

Prophetic Insights with Ps Richard Green

Introduction

Ps Lai Ling

Hi, everyone. Thank you so much for coming to our podcast at WilsonandLailing.com. Today, we're very privileged to have Pastor Richard Green with us from C3 Ryde.

Ps Richard Green

Yes.

Ps Lai Ling

Yeah. And we're going to ask him a couple of things about the prophetic. There's so much that we can learn, and I believe that there's so much we can glean even from Pastor Richard today as well.

Ps Richard Green

Thank you, Lai Ling.

Ps Lai Ling

Thank you so much for being with us, Pastor Richard. I thought to ask you, there are many who are so eager to further develop in the prophetic. And I know you move in this, as the Lord has anointed you. What would be perhaps one or two key pointers that you'd like to share with us about further developing in the prophetic?

Ps Richard Green

Yeah, I think the key in every gift, actually, is increasing your ability to discern- and to discern whether it's the movement of the soul, which is your emotion, your will, your action, or if it's movement of the spirit.



For me, there are two aspects. I believe that the gifts work in consistency with the nature of God and how God delivers. God is a God of grace, so that means it's unearned. So, when it comes to the prophetic, I'm always trying to discern—did I think that thought? Was it a premeditated thought, or did it come like grace? If it comes like grace, it will come unexpectedly—I won't be thinking about it.

Along with that, because we have so many thoughts, I then want to observe the movement of the spirit within me. The movement of the spirit within me would be a heightened sense of love, peace, joy, gentleness—those sorts of things, the qualities of the spirit if the fruit is present. So, I'm looking for a thought that is not one I've conjured up, so it has come as a gift, and I'm looking for the presence of the nature of the Holy Spirit.

And I think that applies to all gifts, actually, but particularly to what I would call the hearing gifts—word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and the prophetic.

Ps Lai Ling

That's really good because sometimes the question of whether it is the Lord, ourselves, or where it is coming from, having to discern is really crucial.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah.

Ps Lai Ling

And I was just wondering as well, because there are those of us who are so raring to grow in the prophetic, and at times, the gift overtakes the giver—God Himself. Would you have one or two safeguards for people who are really running after the prophetic?

Ps Richard Green

Yeah, a really practical and simple safeguard: If you cannot see naturally or hear naturally, you'll never hear spiritually or see spiritually. So, I always say to people who are trying to develop their prophetic gift— in what areas are they doing practical things where they are meeting needs that they can see with their eyes?



One of the temptations with the prophetic is that people become super-spiritual and forget that all gifts can be developed simply by being a good human being. Very, very practical. I've met people who want to see in the spirit, but they're in a room where there's all this need around them, and people are not doing well and somehow, they think the prophetic gift is above all that—but it's not. So that's a safeguard. I'm more likely to trust somebody who is prophetic who is practical too. And I'm not talking about being able to build houses and all that—I'm talking about someone who cares and sees others.

Ps Lai Ling

Yes, seeing and being present. Lend a hand.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah. So I think that's one. Another safeguard is in the language people use. Some older translations talk about being "quickened in the spirit." The problem with that language— that's old English—almost means, "I've got this word, I must give it!" But that's actually contrary to the meaning of the word and also contrary to the nature of the fruit of the spirit. The fruit of the spirit is gentle. That concerns me.

So, a safeguard is for a person to hang on to the gift lightly—it's one of many gifts, but don't elevate it. There are a couple of safeguards. I think it's really important that no prophecy is given in secret. It must always be given in the presence of other people, always.

Ps Lai Ling

Let it be tested.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah, for sure.

Ps Lai Ling

Yeah. Because in this day and age, I seem to see sometimes people chase after the gifts but not God.

Ps Richard Green

Not the Giver.



Ps Lai Ling

And all these gifts I believe, should overflow from that personal relationship with God.

Ps Richard Green

Correct.

Ps Lai Ling

That's how it overflows—with love.

Ps Richard Green

Absolutely.

Ps Lai Ling

Otherwise, it can be manipulated for whatever purposes.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah. And I do think we have to be careful. As an example, I have reasonable people skills, and you have very good people skills. But let's say I'm looking at someone who looks very sad. I could easily want to impress them by putting spiritual language on what I'm seeing with my natural eyes. I might say, "Oh, you have a spirit of heaviness," but in reality, I should just say, "I see that you look a bit sad." The simpler and plainer the language we have, the better.

Ps Lai Ling

Yes. Thank you.

Ps Richard Green

For me, that's a safeguard.

Ps Lai Ling

That's very good. Very valuable. Pastor Richard, I also recognize that you've been on a great number of church-planting trips. I'd love to find out—how has the prophetic helped you in church planting?



Ps Richard Green

That's a really good question. I think in two ways, but I'll go a little broader. The very first place of mention of spiritual gifts in the Bible is in the Old Testament, where Bezalel and Oholiab were given gifts of design. I think in a sense, the prophetic has the ability to see structure, and structure ought to fit people. So, I think the best managers in church should be prophetic because they are trying to hear the pattern from heaven.

When I'm with our church planters, the Lord will often show me how they ought to be structured. Now, I don't say to them, "Thus says the Lord, change this structure," but I will talk with them. Just because I don't say, "This is a prophetic word," doesn't mean it's not 'prophetic'—it will come out.

The second thing is in 1 Corinthians 12:28, which says, "First, apostles, then prophets, then teachers." I believe there's an order here. An apostolic gift establishes something. As soon as a church plant is established, it quickly needs the spirit of the prophetic, which is encouragement. Then, once encouragement is in place, the teacher needs to come in and teach so it's balanced.

In our church planting, in certain countries, it seems like all I do is prophesy, because that's what's needed—they need encouragement. Now that might have very specific words, all sorts of words from me being shown where they ought to be meeting, to a group of people they're going to reach and things that even surprise me. But I think it's that order that's really important. If we were to boil down what prophecy is, the outworking of prophecy is, it should be to encourage. And that's what's so important in church planting.

Ps Lai Ling

Yeah, that's wonderful. Could you share a story of a particular church plant where the prophetic became a strong encouragement for the church planter, for himself or herself that you found from experience?



Ps Richard Green

Yeah, it's very interesting as I've got a couple that are quite right out there. And they're also accompanied by a word of knowledge. Often, the word of knowledge and the prophetic go together for a particular reason.

I was with a couple, and the Lord gave me a prophetic word about their future and their church—it was quite specific and quite big. In this case, it was in Southern Italy. But right at the end, the Lord showed me a picture of their car. He said, "They just bought a brand-new car—the kind that shouldn't have any problems—but a warning light is on their dashboard." And there's been an argument between the husband and wife. He's been putting off going to get it checked out.

I told them, "The Lord is telling me you must get it checked." They were shocked and asked, "How do you know that?" I said, "The Lord showed me so you would know the other prophetic words were true." After the meeting, they pulled up outside in their car and tooted [the horn] and said, "Come over." It's a brand new car. I went over, and they rolled down the window. There it was—the warning light flashing, "Beep, beep, beep, beep."

So that built confidence in them, and they could put in place the prophetic. Now there have been other very significant prophetic words, which have been about, let's say, I mean, I have so many it would be, it's hard to pick, but it would be, for instance a people group, like I had this prophetic word that this church that was just planted and the Lord had gave me this impression that they were in the wrong garden patch. They were in the right area, but in the wrong garden patch and that they needed to move their garden patch. And that led to them moving to a different area, quite close, but it was a different people group. And all of a sudden the church that got planted, it grew. And maybe the one that's really quite, you know- I'm not worried too much about numbers, but sometimes growth does sort of wow, sort of impresses you. So, I had a couple that have been in a particular area on the border of West Kupang and East Kupang. And the Lord spoke to me, and they're awesome people, they've been there for seven years, not got the church passed, you know, maybe 20 or 30.



And the Lord said, they are to move, prophetically. They're to move and showed me the town, the city that they were to move to. And off that they moved. Well, that church, I'll be with them in only a fortnight's time. That church now is approaching over 1200 people in a very interesting area. So sometimes a prophetic word can unlock somebody to take a step. But I do think that prophecies are less directive as they are confirming. So that couple already had a sense that they thought they might need to move, but didn't know where.

Ps Lai Ling

So that gave confirmation. Before we went up to, before we actually landed in Brisbane, I remember, but then it was kind of like, what are we doing here?

Ps Richard Green

Yeah.

Ps Lai Ling

And it was, at that time, like a big country town, but then I was praying one day and I felt the Lord put in my heart, go back to Melbourne where we came from. There was going to be a presbytery and there were two prophets coming, and they had no knowledge of us and all that, and God gave the word during that time and that gave us that confirmation that we've actually been sent forth, for the Lord's work.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah, yeah.

Ps Lai Ling

Gave us the confidence.

Ps Richard Green

I think we need as much strengthening as possible and a genuine prophet will confirm what's already sitting deep within your hearts and I think that's important.



Ps Lai Ling

Thank you. I'm just also thinking a little bit about God using the prophetic to open up opportunities into perhaps new localities, mission fields.

Ps Richard Green

Yeah. Totally.

Ps Lai Ling

Could you please share with us one of those, maybe very you know, at the time where you had that operating as the Lord showed you.

Ps Richard Green

Okay. So even our church plant where we planted was one of those experiences. So, we sensed we were to plant in 1999. We sensed we were to plant on Father's Day- which is a crazy day to start. If there's ever an inconvenient day, it's Father's Day, but the Lord spoke it's to be on Father's Day. Okay. But then we didn't know where, and then, I was at a meeting and the Holy Spirit spoke to me, and I've still got the piece of paper, and it's framed. It's on my wall, in my office, because what happened was I'm in prayer, in a conference, and I'm just pleading with the Lord. Lord, I don't care where we go, but you've got to speak to us, in a sense, prophetically.

And this strange thought came to me. It was 'write down a suburb as an acronym'. I thought, "I don't even think like that." Like it came out of nowhere. And I thought, well, an acronym, well I'm not going to pick Tarramurra, it's got too many letters. Or Parramatta or Woolloomooloo. So I thought to myself, what's a really short suburb? And it happened to be Ryde. And I wrote on the piece of paper- R.Y.D.E. And as soon as the last dot went on, four words came straight away, Reach Young Disciples Everywhere. And I thought, boom. And do you know, our church has been doing that ever since. And when we went to Ryde, we were criticised for going to Ryde because at that stage, in the demographics of Sydney, Ryde was known for having all older people and old Italians. And they'd closed the two high schools.



We have the largest youth group, I think, now in C3. And we've got young people coming out of our ears because the demographics change so radically. We've got so many different nationalities that moved in, all the old Italians have gone and no one could have predicted that. So that's an example of the prophetic. Also I'm in a movement where our founder, Pastor Phil is very prophetic. So every area that has opened up, what has happened is the Lord has spoken to me in my heart prophetically and I've told no one. Absolutely no one, not even my wife, and it sat in me, and all of a sudden Pastor Phil at a conference, said, "Where's Richard?" He does it so often I'm thinking, "Oh, please help me Lord, not again."

That's the reason I went to Russia, because already in my heart, I thought I'm going to Russia and then, and countries like Central Asia. And Pastor Phil doesn't know nothing about my heart and he prophesied, I see you going to Russia and to countries that we can't even pronounce or even know where. So now I'm in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, all the stans. So that dynamic of that being led prophetically is everything for me. And in fact, the thing that I believe, now I'm reasonably, you know, I'm reasonably well trained. And I can think pretty well. And some people think that my strategic planning is coming out of here [points at head], it's not. It's coming out of here [points upwards] and I listen and he shows me something and then I try to write up in a patterned way what he's just shown me. And even our trainings are like that. So I go, okay Lord, show me this is how it works. And that's.. really, I, without the prophetic [shrugs].

Ps Lai Ling

It's so encouraging, just hearing, just how the Lord moved in your life and how you're listening from him and just obeying him, you know, and how that's confirmed, you know, through various individuals over your lives and all that. And I pray that even as a family of churches in HIM, that we will grow more in this and let God impart to us.

Ps Richard Green

Well, I'm already seeing it. I think what I love about this movement- I've observed you and you're making room for it. And I think if we make room for it, and our motive's right, He's going to bring it.





Ps Lai Ling

Yeah. Thank you so much, Pastor Richard. Really appreciate the time that you know, took time to share with us in the prophetic, of things in the prophetic, as well as the stories and how God moved. It's so wonderful to see what the Lord has been doing. Yeah. And the stories that came to them, you know, it stuck in me and saying, "Wow, God, I want more of the Lord." Thank you so much.

And thank you so much for taking time to be with us in this podcast. We pray that you have been blessed as well. And we look forward to seeing you in the next podcast. Thank you.

Ps Richard Green

Thank you.



Discussion Questions

These questions could be done personally or as part of a group discussion.

1. As you listen to this podcast, what is one thing that stood out to you from Ps Richard's sharing? For example: being discerning in God, being present in helping people out of godly love, not over-spiritualizing the prophetic, God utilizing the prophetic gifting in missions and church planting, willingness to obey the Lord as He reveals His prophetic word, and allowing prophecies to be tested and confirmed.
2. What is one aspect of your development in the prophetic that you would like to further improve? What small steps would you take to gradually reach that goal with God's help?





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