

Live Prophetic (Word)

To live prophetic is this: *living out the way of Jesus and eagerly proclaiming the gospel, reflecting the character and values of God as revealed through Jesus.*

The Word of God

First, the Word of God is Spoken: creation into existence; God's will to humanity; God's word via the prophets. Christianity is rooted in a God who has spoken (NT Wright, *Simply Christian*). *Next, the Word of God is Incarnate:* Jesus (logos, word; see John 1:1-18). *Only then is the Word of God Written:* Scripture. In these ways, the Word of God is authoritative, creating and shaping life in the will of God.

The Word of God and the Prophet

When we think of a prophet, we often think of predicting the future with doom and gloom. However, the role of the prophet (or prophetess) was to speak the word of the Lord (e.g. the word of the Lord came to...; this is what the Lord says...; ...declares the Lord)—announcing God's will or intentions for the people; foretelling the future (a possible, not guaranteed, future).

The Word of God and the Character of God

The word of the Lord is rooted in his character seen in words like gracious, forgiving, slow to anger, patient, forbearing, lovingkindness, compassionate, merciful, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice. These theologically rich words are found in two passages in particular—Exodus 34:6-7 and Hosea 2:19-20—but also exist in pairs and trios in many other passages throughout the OT as ways of calling out God's character. The prophets' ministry rests on the foundation of God's character as described through these words.

The Word of God, the Character of God, and Jesus

When Jesus comes on to the scene, he does so in the line of the prophets who stand up and speak for God. And the character of God is embedded in Jesus. See Luke 4:14-21 where Jesus adopts the mission of the Servant of God from Isaiah.

The Word of God and the People of God

Most of our prophetic ministry is in the way we live with the character of God becoming more and more embedded in us. This is seen in the way we Live Connected (Fellowship) and the way we Live Compassionate (Serve). However, there is also a spoken element to our prophetic ministry, and it is not doom and gloom. In our preaching and teaching, here and around the world, we bring words of life, hope, and love.

When you announce the good news that the risen Jesus is Lord, that very word is the word of God, a carrier or agent of God's Spirit, a means by which, as Isaiah had predicted, new life from God's dimension comes to bring new creation within ours (NTW, *Simply Christian*, p 134).

An Example

Jonas—in Lois Lowry's book, *The Giver*—proclaiming the truth of the fullness of life: the grayscale life they were living was a pale existence compared to the full color version available to them all.