



PROPHECY

just do it!

MATTHEW HELLAND

powerbacket

PROPHECY

just do it!

MATT HELLAND



Prophecy—Just Do It!

Copyright © 2019 Matthew Helland

Published by Arrowz Publishing House

info@arrowz.org

www.arrowz.org

Author: Matthew Helland

Editor: Erica Kramer

Art direction and interior design: Ronald Gabrielsen, 3ig.com

ISBN 978 94 90489 52 6

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NBV) are taken (translated) from De Nieuwe Bijbelvertaling, © 2004/2007 Nederlands Bijbelgenootschap, Haarlem, the Netherlands. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NKJV) are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (TLB) are taken from The Living Bible copyright © 1971. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, electronically, mechanically, by means of photocopying, recording or otherwise—with the exception of brief quotation in printed reviews—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

I dedicate this book to my wife, Femke.

*Everything that is truly valuable was given to me
by Jesus and by you. You're the greatest gift
I have ever received, and through you and
through Jesus I have become who I am today.*



*Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts,
especially that you may prophesy.*

– 1 CORINTHIANS 14:1

*For you can all prophesy one by one,
so that all may learn and all be encouraged.*

– 1 CORINTHIANS 14:31



Contents

Endorsements	9
Foreword	11
Introduction: The Power of Prophecy	13
The Vision: The Return of the Prophets	21
1. Hearing God's Voice	25
2. Keys	43
3. Barriers	73
4. Prophecy in the Church	99
5. Teaching Children to Prophecy	121
Conclusion: Creating a Healthy Prophetic Culture	131
Notes	136
Recommended Reading	137
About the Author	138

Endorsements

Matthew Helland is the type of guy that brings the refreshing love of God wherever he goes. If you have the opportunity to meet him I wholeheartedly recommend him concerning all ministry.

– ***Phil Strout***

National Director of Vineyard Association of Churches, USA

Lives are changed once we begin to recognize and activate the power of the Holy Spirit in every believer. I am amazed at how Matthew's knowledge and practical teachings have ignited the supernatural in our region.

– ***Mark Hammond***

Senior Pastor of Celebration Center IPHC, Modesto, CA, USA

Matthew Helland has organized schools of prophecy around the world. He is a reliable, humble and dedicated servant of God whose integrity is beyond reproach. For that reason, I wholeheartedly recommend this book!

– ***Jan Pool***

Founder and Senior Leader of Heartlink, the Netherlands

This is a book for every believer to read and enjoy.

– ***Randell O. Drake***

Bishop of New Horizons Ministries, I.P.H.C.

Matthew Helland has dared to write a book that is biblical, contemporary, practical and autobiographical. I am pleased to recommend it.

– ***Thomson Mathew***

*Professor and Former Dean, College of Theology & Ministry,
Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK, USA*

Matthew Helland will inspire you to expect to see Jesus do more than you knew was possible. This book will give you practical teaching, helpful tools, and stories that will spark you to step out and see amazing things!

– ***Putty Putman***

*Founding Director of School of Kingdom Ministry,
Pastor at The Vineyard of Central Illinois, Urbana, IL, USA*

Foreword

Over the years I have been blessed by words of encouragement and prophetic insight Matthew has given to me. When I see a message from Matt, I know I am hearing from a man who has spent time with God, a man who genuinely loves me and seeks the best for me, a man who has sought to determine God's timing in what, and how, he should speak.

This book is part autobiography and part instruction. It is a lesson in Holy Spirit gifts, in taking the time to develop those gifts, and then giving God glory for the effective deployment of those gifts.

I've read a lot of books about prophetic ministry, but this one is different. It is written from the front lines of confronting the desperate needs of people in Western culture, specifically Western Europe.

Matt is giving his life to raising up new a generation dedicated to the One who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." They are open to the fullness of His Spirit. They understand He is the Redeemer. They understand He is Love. They know that He is Truth. And they know, that He is seeking to reveal Himself to all who are thirsty in a modern spiritual desert.

What makes this book so appealing is Matt Helland's willingness to be "real." He shares his fears, lack of knowledge (and how to address it), and even his failures in exercising spiritual gifts. There is a joyful humility that runs through this book. However, this humility does not mask the genuine courage it takes to reach people. As you read this book, you will be inspired, informed. And more: I believe an impartation will take place.

Prophesy—Just Do It is a must-read book for living out the fullness of the Spirit in our generation.

– ***Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr.***

Bishop of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church

The Power of Prophecy

Every week, my wife and I visit Spanish-speaking workers in Amsterdam's Red-light District. There, I am known as Pastor or Padre Mateo, who comes by to listen to and to pray for everyone who opens their door to him. On a regular basis I see people receiving physical healing or being touched by an accurate word from God I share with them. Their stories show how God's love has transformed lives through prophecy.

One woman I will call Victoria told me about the first time she met me. She thought I was a potential client so she was shocked when she opened the door and I began giving her an accurate word from God. She had been on her knees asking God for a word from him, and in walked Pastor Mateo answering the question she had asked God that morning in prayer. In addition, all the pain in her back disappeared after I prayed for her.

Another woman in the room had just had a dream and asked me if I could tell her what it meant. She burst into tears as I described what she was going through. Victoria told me the woman immediately went upstairs, put her clothes on and never returned to working in the Red-light District.

One of the first women we were able to help get out of prostitution, Maria, always sat with her feet against the window in a peculiar fashion. Later I learned this was because of severe knee and back pain she was suffering. She never talked to me and later I found out she had told everyone I was a crazy white man who spoke Spanish and told everybody he was a pastor. One of her colleagues told her I really was a pastor and I could really help her.

I was excited when Maria told me she wanted to quit prostitution and wanted our help. Later that week, when she arrived at the office of Bright Fame, she told me she was afraid of “becoming one of those Christians.” To this I just responded, “Oh, don’t worry about it at all.”

We helped Maria quit her work in the Red-light District and every time I saw her I prayed for the healing of her knee and back. Again, she politely allowed me to pray for her. She later told me she thought, “This man is crazy.”

One day we had a barbecue at her house and I had invited a prophetic friend of mine. The first thing he said when he saw her was, “I see your knee is bone on bone, without cartilage. God is going to heal your knee and your back.” Maria thought he was crazy and responded, “I would really like to quit drinking.” My friend responded, “Okay, the next time you drink alcohol, you will feel terrible.” That day she had some beer, but it just did not taste like it used to. The next morning, she woke up and she had a major hangover something she never had as she was used to drinking large amounts of whisky, wine and

beer. Alcohol had been one of her coping mechanisms, but since that day, she hasn't needed it.

Maria's life has radically changed since she has gotten to know Christ. She has quit drinking, her nightmares have stopped, she has lost weight, her body has healed and she has regained joy in life. She has also learned how to ride a bike and swim, two important skills for anyone living in Holland.

Maria worked in prostitution for over sixteen years, but now she has a totally new life. The woman who had said she was afraid of becoming a Christian now has Bible study at her house every Tuesday evening. Every week new people are attending and getting to know Christ through Maria's cooking and testimony. She is a key figure in a new church in Amsterdam called Iglesia Vida Nueva, or New Life Church.

All around the world, prophecy changes lives. In June of 2018, I visited the Red-light District of Mexicali, Mexico together with a team of young Christians. We had asked God for clues or words of knowledge concerning the people we would find that day. One of the words was "camouflage." One of the young evangelists saw a man with a camouflage shirt and ran after him. He was shocked to see the wearer had been his cellmate in jail for over a year and a half. His old friend looked at him and said, "For the last three days, I have been asking God to send someone to me to tell me about Him and help me start a new life." As my friend began praying for him, his old cellmate fell into his arms and began to weep.

This young man learned that evangelism and prophecy are not difficult at all. They are simply all about communicating the heart and mind of Christ to the world around us. From Amsterdam to Budapest, and from Kiev to Barcelona and Mexicali, I have seen people being moved to tears because someone told them about God's heart for them. At times this may be accompanied with a healing or an accurate word of knowledge, but the most important goal is to communicate God's truth and love for them.

Every person I train in prophetic ministry will at some point in their message utter such a word as, "God says, 'I love you,'" or "You are my beloved child." Evangelism and prophetic ministry are all about sharing love, truth, hope and life. In this book, I will focus on the often misunderstood and feared ministry of prophecy.

What is Prophecy?

Prophecy is communicating the heart and mind of God to your world. It is knowing God's voice so well it becomes normal to tell others what we feel God wants to tell them. Prophecy transforms lives and releases the power of God into our world. Proverbs 29:18 says without prophetic vision or without prophecy the people of God perish. In other words, the Church begins to die when we only know *about* God and we don't really know *Him*. Prophecy is the natural fruit of cultivating a personal interactive relationship with God.

If He is our Father and we are His children it should be the most natural thing to hear His voice and communicate His words to others. Prophecy should be normal among Christians.

Why Prophecy?

Firstly, because the Bible tells us to on numerous occasions. The apostle Peter says if anyone speaks, they should speak as if they were speaking “the very words of God” (1 Pet. 4:11 NIV). He also states on the day of Pentecost that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh and everyone would prophesy (see Act. 2:17-18). The apostle Paul explicitly states to “follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy” (1 Cor. 14:1 NIV). And these are just a few of the scriptures urging us to prophesy and flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, because hearing God’s voice is a regular part of following Jesus (see John 10:3-5). Jesus is the good Shepherd and we are His sheep. We follow Him because He calls us by name and we recognize His voice. He does not drive us with fear or manipulation but goes ahead of us and calls us by name. In the same way I recognize my wife or my mother’s voice on the telephone when they call, anyone who believes in Christ can hear him and get to know God’s voice.

And finally, because it reveals God’s heart, what could be better?

Near the end of a youth prophetic conference I led in Budapest, a young man grabbed the microphone and said, “God says, ‘I love you, I love you, I love you.’” I did not brush this off as too elemental. Instead, I thought, “Yes! He caught the essence of the prophetic ministry.” It revealed the passionate, loving heart and mind of Father God. He longs for His children to know Him as He truly is. He loves to speak to and through us.

Embracing Transformation

Unfortunately, prophecy is not always present in the local church today, partly because of a lack of knowledge or healthy role models who can demonstrate and explain the proper use of the gifts of the Spirit. Relatively few people are willing to teach and activate other people in prophecy. Many people would like to prophesy, but they just don’t know how or are frightened by incorrect teaching.

This is why I wrote this book. I’m not a know-it-all expert, but as a fellow mountain climber who delights in helping others climb higher, I have learned growing in prophetic ministry is best done in the context of community. I gladly share my successes and failures; I believe they will encourage you to grow in your ability to hear God’s voice and move in His power.

I have seen churches transformed after organizing a school of prophecy. Like those schools, this book is meant to equip you to prophesy. It is full of biblical examples and modern-day stories to inspire you. I have been privileged to teach this

material in cities all across the world and have seen wonderful results. Adults and children who thought they could never prophesy are now confidently and accurately prophesying.

The biblical principles I share will help you if you long to grow in prophetic ministry. But at its core, the prophetic ministry is not about principles or steps. It is all about developing your intimate relationship with God. When we live connected to Jesus, all the gifts of the Spirit, including prophecy, can be normal and natural. If we seek His presence first—His presents follow.

My attitude regarding prophetic ministry is, “Everything I can do, you can do better.” That motto was inspired by Jesus’ words, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12 NIV). Pause for a moment to take that in: Jesus Himself said we would do the same works He did—and even greater. He left us His Holy Spirit to empower us to do these things.

The prophet Ezekiel shares a vision. A river coming out of God’s temple becomes so deep he can swim in it. Everywhere the river goes, new life appears and things flourish (Ez. 47). What a great description of what can happen as people grow in life-giving and biblical prophetic ministry. It is like being able to swim in the flow of the Holy Spirit. Yet, the hardest part of that kind of swimming is getting started. It’s like getting into the cold water of a mountain lake or the

Dutch sea. I remember one time standing in the water for ten minutes before I dared dive into the chilly waves. Once I dived in, however, I enjoyed swimming and my body got used to the temperature.

Of all our family, there is one person who loves to dive into water no matter how cold it is: Benjamin, my now six-year-old son. Cold water does not stop him from diving into the waves of the North Sea. He has such fun swimming, no matter how cold it may be. It's the same with prophecy; once you jump in, you will discover how much fun it is! The courage Benjamin has to jump in cold water is the courage I want to have to prophesy over people, no matter how frigid a response I get.

Surfers and divers who swim in cold waters use wet suits so they can swim no matter how cold the water may be. I pray this book with all of the biblical principles, examples and exercises will allow you to swim in the flow of what the Holy Spirit is doing and saying.

It is my hope you will enjoy reading this book, but even more so I my desire is that you further cultivate your own intimate relationship with Jesus and learn to prophesy! Learn to see how God can change your life and the lives of people around you when you humbly yet boldly speak His words and move in the power of His Holy Spirit.

The Return of the Prophets

Pray for the rising up of a new generation of leaders—prophets of the apostolic mold—leaders who could once again gather the people of God into communities of radical faithfulness.

— RICHARD FOSTER¹

In 1978, Christian author and theologian Richard Foster was strolling across a beach in Portland, Oregon. All of a sudden, God started to talk to him. During that conversation, he noticed a large rock in the middle of the water being beaten by waves. It stood as a bastion of unconquerable strength. Then he saw an ancient tree which had been hit by lightning. The tree was dead in the middle and only had a few parts on the outside which were still alive. As he looked, God said to him “the Church in many places looks like the ancient tree: dead in the middle with only small remnants of life on the periphery.” He turned again and looked at the strong rock beaten by the waves and heard God say, “But that rock is what I am calling my Church to be like.”

Foster writes, “I was given ... guidance to pray for the rising up of a new generation of leaders—prophets of the apostolic mold.

Leaders who could once again gather the people of God into communities of radical faithfulness.”

He goes on to describe these prophets by saying,

They come from every class and category of people. Some are educated; others are illiterate or semi-literate. Some come from organized churches and denominations; others come from outside these structures. Some are women; some are men; some are children. To the person they love Jesus with their whole heart. Under their leadership and by the power of the Holy Spirit the people of God are once again being gathered. (I am speaking not organizationally but organically.) We are witnessing in our day a whole host of children and women and men who are getting hooked into a different order of reality and power.²

Foster’s vision strikes a chord in me. In it, I see my own desire to be a prophet of the apostolic mold who will gather God’s people into communities of radical faithfulness. They align with my mission to reach the lost, make disciples, raise up a new generation of prophets, and create life-changing communities where knowing God and hearing from Him is normal.

Many Christians do not believe it is possible to hear God’s voice or see visions from Him. But I am convinced God created us to be able to hear His voice. God still speaks today. The problem is all too often we are not listening, either due to unbelief or poor spiritual leadership. Sometimes, the leaders of our communities lack the knowledge and skills to develop a dynamic relationship with God. The Bible teaches us God

raises up prophets when people do not know Him. In 1 Samuel, we read an example: “But when they arrived and saw Samuel leading a group of prophets who were prophesying, the Spirit of God came upon Saul’s men, and they also began to prophesy” (1 Sam. 19:20 NLT).” In 2 Kings 2, we find large communities of prophets in places such as Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho. The norm was not one or two individuals prophesied, but entire communities.

I am convinced it is God’s intention not to just raise up an individual prophet, but communities of prophets who regularly prophesy and can activate others to learn to recognize God’s voice for themselves and others.

In fact, it is not God’s will for just one or two “special” people to be able to prophesy, but that all may prophesy. Paul writes, “For you can *all* prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged” (1 Cor. 14:31 NIV). And in Acts we read, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on *all* people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy” (Act. 2:17-18 NIV).

Here we see the promise is for all people—male, female, young, old, rich, poor —everyone upon whom God pours out His Spirit. The new covenant God made with His people was that everyone could know God and speak His words (see Jer. 31:33-34).

In some Church traditions, only the church leaders can receive and give a message from God. Not only is this unbiblical, it is a tragedy people are made dependent on one or two leaders if they want to communicate with God. It is unhealthy if a believer relies too heavily on a prophet, counselor, pastor or leader in order to get direction from God for their lives. We can each learn to be led by the Holy Spirit and the Bible. We should not start by looking to prophets for direction in our lives. We look to God first and only then to other people who know Him and will confirm what He speaks to our own hearts.

It is not only special “prophets” or ministers who get to prophesy. Often, it is my favorite prophetic ministers: my own children or people nobody else would suspect of being able to prophesy. When I release Bible school students to do prophetic and healing ministry, they normally begin seeing the same kinds of healings and prophetic ministry I minister with. God wants every believer to be able to prophesy!

So, would you like to be a part of a new generation of prophets? Would you like to learn how prophesying can be normal and natural for you? Let’s start at the beginning, then: how to hear God’s voice.

Hearing God's Voice

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

– PSALM 32:8

There is life-changing power in hearing God's voice. This is what Dutchman Piet van Soest can testify to. As a twelve-year-old boy, he told everyone someday he would have a chocolate store. However, at the age of fifty-two, health problems made it nearly impossible for him to walk. Walking is essential for work in a bakery, so doctors wanted to put him on disability benefits. They did not believe he would ever be able to work again. He remembered, though, that God had told him years earlier he would have a chocolate store.

By faith, he began renting a small shop in the town of Hillegom when a miracle took place. He was completely healed. After he learned how to make chocolate from different chocolatiers, his only problem was he did not have a recipe for making chocolate bonbons. One night, he asked God for it and went to sleep. The next day he woke up with a recipe in his thoughts. God gave him a dream from which he made his first bonbons out of chocolate, caramel and whipped cream.

This process of getting a recipe repeated itself five times. His chocolate store is now known for its special recipes. When someone asks him how he gets them, he replies, “I get them from God in a dream.” To this day, you can taste these delicious chocolates at Chocolaterie Pierre in Hillegom and Haarlem, Holland. Even now, his best sellers are the bonbons made from the recipe he received from God

This same power is visible in the life of Frits Rouvoet, founder and director of Bright Fame. Frits was in a meeting in the United States when a prophet picked him out. He began describing the building and the kind of ministry he would be doing in downtown Amsterdam. Later, Frits started working in a building in the city center. After a few days he realized this was the building the prophet had described. The prophet had also said, “If you start working there, the Mary Magdalenes will come in.” Not long afterward the women of the Red-light District started coming in for help.

His work developed into a ministry that stops human trafficking and has helped hundreds of women get out of prostitution. My wife, Femke, and I are privileged to be a part of this organization. To this day, that prophetic word is having an effect on not only Rouvoet’s life, but on the lives of many others.

But how can we hear God’s voice? That’s what I once asked a prophet: “How can I prophesy?” He looked at me and said, “The same Holy Spirit I have, you have too. Just do it!” I believed him, and that was the beginning of me regularly prophesying and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. “So, does

Matthew Helland

Born in Chile to American missionaries, Matthew Helland is an international missionary, speaker and writer. He is based out of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In the past few years his ministry has taken him to nations throughout Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East and to Australia. He is fluent in English, Dutch and Spanish.

Matthew feels called to activate churches in evangelism and the gifts of the Spirit. He frequently teaches on subjects such as:

- discipleship
- prophecy
- power evangelism
- divine healing
- prayer
- church planting

Matthew and his wife Femke live in Amsterdam with their four children. After planting a church there, they are now focusing on reaching out to Spanish speaking individuals in the city's Red-Light District. There, they are seeing lives transformed by the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit!



www.newlifeequip.org

www.prophecyandheal.com

www.facebook.com/mattandfemke.helland

YOU CAN PROPHECY

Would you be willing to prophesy if it were God's will for you to do so? It is His will! The Bible says, "You can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged" (1 Cor. 14:31).

Discover how you can nurture and develop your ability to hear God's voice and prophesy. With more than thirty practical exercises, you can learn (individually or in a group) how to distinguish God's voice and how to prophesy well. Be encouraged by the testimonies and anecdotes that demonstrate the power of prophecy. Don't hold back. *Prophecy—Just Do It!*



MATT HELLAND (M.Div., Oral Roberts University) has led schools of prophecy around the world since 2010. Together with his wife, Femke, he works as a pastor in Amsterdam's Red-Light District. Matthew and Femke have four children..

