PROPHETIC ACTS AND DECLARATIONS

By Joan Emery

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This booklet is dedicated to all who are Spirit-filled and seek in their heart to search out and explore more of the depths of truth contained in God's Word. We need to be operating through every channel that the Holy Spirit makes available to us; being reminded that it is the Lord Jesus Who is building His Church in His way and through the promptings of His Spirit. May the shackles of tradition and 'how it has always been done attitude' fade into the background as God moves mightily by His Spirit, pouring His presence out upon us in exciting and creative ways in these days preceding His soon-coming return.

FOREWORD

I have known Joan Emery all my life – she is my younger sister! Life has not always been easy for her, but I have watched as she has developed her walk and relationship with the Lord over the years. Today she carries a sharp prophetic insight and ministers powerfully through preaching, spiritual gifts and the prophetic ministry. Those who have heard her speak testify to this fact.

In this, her first venture into writing a booklet, Joan challenges us on a very important aspect of Christianity. That aspect is the place and realm of prophetic acts and prophetic declarations. As you will see, the Bible speaks about these things, and it is to our advantage to discover and learn more of the supernatural of God in our lives today. God wants to use us supernaturally to bring about supernatural things. The key is to hear, know and obey His voice.

May you be greatly blessed, inspired and challenged by the contents of this booklet.

~ Rodney W. Francis

Founder/Director: "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry.

PROPHETIC ACTS and DECLARATIONS

We live in exciting, challenging times: times when God is bringing about many changes in the Church, as we know it. One of the changes that I have observed is the restoration of prophetic acts and prophetic declarations. As we keep our eyes on Jesus and passionately seek His face, everything He IS comes with Him. He is Spirit and He is Prophetic.

A prophetic act is more than – or differs from – a spoken word of prophecy or word of knowledge. It is an action, something we DO under the anointing and prompting of the Holy Spirit as a step of faith, as an act of obedience to release the power, the presence and the victory of God into a situation. Yes, it can include prophecy and words of knowledge or wisdom, or it can be an act that stands alone without any 'extras'.

The Bible records various prophetic acts, but there is no set pattern whereby we can say, "This is the way to do it!" God initiates prophetic acts appropriately and suitably to each occasion or need. The Holy Spirit doesn't grow stale in His prophetic capacity; He never gets into a rut. So, we need "ears to hear what the Spirit is saying" and then DO it.

Twice in Scripture we have these words recorded, "Whatever he (Joseph) says to you, DO" (Genesis 41:55, NKJV) and "Whatever He says to you, DO IT" (John 2:5, NKJV – emphasis added). In both these examples it was very much to their advantage to follow these words of instruction without question. Joseph was God's man on the job in a situation of severe drought; a catastrophe that meant either life or death, according to whether they obeyed Joseph or not. And Mary, the mother of Jesus, spoke

prophetically into a situation that released Jesus into His first miracle – the changing of water into wine.

If you and I are willing to be open to the Holy Spirit, we will see an ever-increasing explosion of His fullness working through us, bringing further wholeness to the Body.

- Are we open to the Holy Spirit?
- Even to His doing new things through us?

Prophetic declarations and proclamations come from the heart of God. As we move prophetically in them, we move in the authority and power of God resident within us; we call into being the will of God for situations and circumstances, declaring in the heavenlies that which God proposes to change; speaking into existence that which does not exist.

Joshua's Prophetic Declaration

In Joshua 10:12-13, Joshua makes an amazing prophetic declaration. He was on the battlefield, fighting against five Amorite kings and their armies, but he needed more time, more daylight to get the job completed successfully. So he looked up at the sun and made an awesome prophetic declaration . . . "Sun, stand still! You will not go down today, but you will continue to shine and give us light until the battle is won. Moon, don't come this way tonight; we have no need of you, just stay right where you are!" (interpretation mine). What authority! What faith! History records that this is exactly what happened.

Elijah's Prophetic Proclamation

In the days of King Ahab, Israel had sunken so low into Baal worship that God sent judgment in the form of a drought. He sent His prophet Elijah with this prophetic proclamation: "As surely as the Lord God of Israel lives – the God whom I worship and serve – there won't be any dew or rain for several years until I say the word!" (1 Kings 17:1, TLB). Of

course neither the king nor anyone else took him seriously and let his words go right over their heads - Elijah was out of sight and out of mind! And, as time went by, and not a drop of water came down from the heavens or seeping up through the earth, they undoubtedly would have called upon Baal many times to "send the rain!" But no amount of Baal worship could break or annul the prophetic proclamation of Elijah, the man of God. Elijah's proclamation began to feature very heavily in the thoughts of the king . . . "Could there be the remotest chance that this drought is connected to the words of Elijah? The audacity of that wretched little man! When I find him I'll shred him like paper!" But, despite search parties being sent far and wide (1 Kings 18:10), the prophetic man of God remained safe, well fed and hidden in the centre of God's will.

A Fool For Jesus!

We need to be more open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit; to override the patterns, programmes and mindsets we've been "hooked into" for so long. Our human mind will always seek to restrict us and tell us, "You can't do that – it wouldn't be acceptable in the church! You can't do that; it would make you look like a fool!" That is why we must be tuned into the Holy Spirit. It's not that He wants to make us look like a fool but that He alone knows the right 'method' to bring about the right result for the right reason.

Let me give you an example to clarify this point. I was in a meeting where a married couple were being ministered to, both suffering from a wounded spirit. The Holy Spirit told me to take a flag and wave it over the heads of the couple (who were seated out the front in chairs). My mind told me that was crazy — what could waving a flag do? But, as I was obedient and began to wave the flag over them, the Holy Spirit prompted me to make a strong declaration over their lives and pronounce victory into their spirits. Next thing, the wife's countenance gloriously changed and she was standing on the chair, waving the flag high in the air with all her might; she was getting involved in a prophetic act to

break off the wounding in her spirit. Later on, she shared with me how significant the prophetic act and declaration had been. No one else in that meeting (except her husband) knew that many years before, while leading a women's meeting that didn't appear to be "going anywhere" (it was flat and lifeless), the Holy Spirit had prompted her to stand on a chair and wave a flag to bring a spirit of celebration and joy into their midst. And when she did, the whole place erupted into celebration! Now, when I approached them with the flag in this particular meeting, immediately the wife's mind went straight back to that occasion, and she knew the Holy Spirit was setting her free! There is no way in the natural that I could have known how significant the flag was to her but the Holy Spirit knew; He knew the right 'method' to bring about the right result for the right reason. I am not normally a demonstrative type of person; in fact it was the first time in my life I had waved a flag over someone's head, but I recognised the voice of the Spirit and simply obeyed. Holy Spirit ministry is all about bringing life, setting people free, sending them on their way whole and healed.

David's Act of 'Foolishness' Unto the Lord

We read in 2 Samuel 6 and 1 Chronicles 15 & 16:1-4 how David danced before the Lord, as he brought the Ark of God back to its rightful place. And, even though his wife, Michal, thought it made him look like a fool, David himself felt totally released as he responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

- Why did David dance before (unto) the Lord?
- Why did he (the king!) leap into the air like a crazy man?

My persuasion is that David did it as a prophetic act; maybe not knowingly, but that is in fact what it was. He was planting a seed of joy and celebration to uproot the seed of sadness, mourning and anger that had taken root among the people when the Lord God brought instant judgment upon Uzzah. David had previously attempted to bring the Ark home, and, although the idea was right, his method of doing it was wrong. This led to

Uzzah's death, and that death brought anger and frustration into the heart of David and his people against the Lord. So this time, David not only needed the idea to be right, he needed the method to be right also.

When his wife saw him dancing and leaping in the street, clad only in a priest's garment (an ephod), she despised him in her heart, accusing him of acting like a common idiot. But David's reply was, "I was dancing before the Lord" (2 Samuel 6:21, TLB). He had learnt the hard way that no one can touch God's glory (the Ark) with his hands and live. And now his wife would also have to learn the hard way that no one can despise God's anointed and walk away from it unscathed: for in doing so, she brought a curse upon herself, remaining childless till the day of her death.

If the Holy Spirit is not embarrassed when He prompts us to do something, why should we be? Maybe, as born-again believers, we need to be more receptive to the Spirit in the area of spontaneity – hearing His voice and responding without questioning.

A Rumbling Matter

Once, while on a team ministry trip, I did something that could have got me 'hung': I ran the risk of 'being stoned' or at the very least being escorted out of the building and thus being made to look like a fool! I heard myself making a prophetic declaration over a church with the words "Get ready to R-U-M-B-L-E!" just as one would hear in the boxing arenas of America before a big fight. As we all linked hands across that church, we didn't pray or prophesy, but the Holy Spirit caused me to make a strong declaration over the congregation that we would move on in God; that we would RUMBLE for God, and it was powerful, stirring and challenging. Then, this was immediately followed by a prophetic act when the Spirit prompted another member of our team to prophesy on a tambourine. Wow! As the sound of it rose and fell again and again, it signified the rumbling of God's soldiers and it

seemed like the air was electric! It so touched and excited my spirit that I wanted it to go on and on. When it stopped I felt almost robbed; I felt like the link to heaven had suddenly been cut.

God Expresses Himself through Music

Musical instruments can play an important part in prophetic acts - surely it is time to forge ahead in this area. We don't want to get so "locked in" to what we are familiar with (song lists and programmes that run on 'automatic') that we forget we are here first and foremost to be available to the Holy Spirit. Have we prayerfully considered giving our musicians and singers the "space" and freedom to run with the Spirit? The tambourine **became** the prophecy – we didn't need any words. Perhaps we need to be convinced there is more to God's music than what we already experience?

Again, I was sitting in a meeting when the Holy Spirit showed me He was "waiting for a prophetic whistle!" Now I know it is fruitless to have a different opinion to the Holy Spirit, but I immediately found myself reacting in a negative way: "Whistle? You can't whistle in church, it just wouldn't be acceptable!" But the reply came straight back, "Who are you to say what is acceptable? I can use whatever I choose!" I considered myself aptly reprimanded!

Does Jesus Have a Comfort Zone?

Have we ever stopped to consider what kind of church Jesus would be comfortable in? And remember, we are the Church; it's not some building where we meet to worship. Our bodies are the Church, the temple of the Holy Spirit.

- Surely Jesus can only be comfortable where the Holy Spirit is welcome and active.
- Surely Jesus can only be comfortable where we host the Holy Ghost.

When we look into the Gospels and see how Jesus ministered, we have to be impressed with His very down-to-earth, informal style of ministry. There was no pomp and ceremonial splendour. He put people first: not structure, not outward appearance, and certainly not what would have been 'acceptable' religious behaviour for an 'outsider' like Him.

- Jesus ministered to the heart and not the head.
- He didn't want to *impress* He only wanted to *impart*.

You may have heard it said – *If you want to make God laugh, tell Him what you know!* How applicable that was to the religious hierarchy of Jesus' day. They were stiff-necked (and He told them so) because their beliefs prevented them from recognising the Messiah when He came. They lacked the flexibility to make adjustments and change when the wind of God's Spirit blew in their direction because they thought *what they knew* made them wiser than Jesus.

Some Old Testament Examples of Prophetic Acts and Declarations

Moses:

Moses was always speaking out prophetic declarations and carrying out prophetic acts with his rod. God chose Moses, knowing he had a speech impediment (see Exodus 4:10), so He (God) could speak through him; so He could do signs, wonders and miracles through him; so He could introduce the supernatural to the Egyptians, as well as to His own people. God didn't choose a man who was oozing with natural ability. God chose a man who, through past experience, had learned to lean on HIM; a man who would be obedient to the task set before him. In Exodus 4:2-3, God said to Moses, "What is that in your hand? (NKJV) . . . USE IT!" (emphasis added - interpretation mine). His rod became his point of contact for prophetic ministry.

In Exodus 14, after the Israelites fled from Egypt, we read how the Egyptians pursued them with a vengeance. They wanted to retrieve their slaves; the exodus of the Israelites had humiliated them. They wanted to further punish their slaves; the loss of their firstborn had devastated them. In verses 15, 16 and 21 we see that Moses had to DO something, not SAY something. "Don't speak . . . ACT! Stop praying, stop crying out to Me and get the people moving forward. Stretch out your rod over the sea and divide it . . ." (emphasis added – interpretation mine).

Today's Challenge

The challenge is still the same today.

Get moving! Forward march!

If we choose to keep looking back, in reality, we are not ready to go forward.

The Children of Israel should have been out of the wilderness in ten or eleven days. Instead, they spent 40 years there because many of the people kept looking back; they kept raving on about returning to Egypt; that with which they were familiar. They couldn't or wouldn't throw off the garment labelled "slave mentality." So the Lord kept them in the wilderness until all those with eyes in the back of their head' had died off. God had to wait until all those with a crick in their neck' had cricked their last!!

- Prophetic Acts are about going forward in God.
- Prophetic Acts are about forging ahead in the realm of the Spirit.
- Prophetic Declarations are about claiming the impossible.
- Prophetic Declarations are about anointed utterances of faith.

Hands Up!

In Exodus 17, beginning at verse 8, we see how Moses was training Joshua to come up through the ranks of responsibility. When Amalek (Esau's grandson) came to Rephidim to fight

against Israel, Joshua was instructed by Moses to assemble an army and go out to fight him. But Moses himself was not going to fight the battle in the natural realm with his soldiers; he was going to fight the battle in the spiritual realm through a prophetic act.

"Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand . . . " (RSV verse 9), he told Joshua. The rod of God speaks of the presence and authority of God. Moses was saying, "I'll stand at the highest point and use my God-given authority. I will hold up the rod as a prophetic act to bring God's presence and victory onto the scene." But it was not just a case of lifting up the rod of God and all the enemy would scatter in a thousand different directions as the Lord Himself "zapped" them. There was a battle in the physical (natural), and there was a battle in the spiritual. When the battle in the spiritual became tiring, and Moses' hands dropped to his side, then the battle in the physical also suffered loss. When the authority of the rod of God was not held high in the air, then the enemy prevailed and Joshua's army got whipped. But, with the help of Aaron and Hur, as long as the rod was held high, the people of God triumphed on the battlefield. The battle in the natural was totally dependent and connected to the battle in the spiritual.

The victory in this story came about through teamwork. Have we partnered with the Holy Spirit and become part of a team doing the work of the Lord through the prophetic? Remember, the prophetic is not limited to giving words of prophecy only.

Elisha:

In 2 Kings 13:14-20, there is an account of events that took place between Joash, the king of Israel, and Elisha. The words the king wept over Elisha as he was dying were the very same words Elisha cried out to Elijah as he was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire . . . "O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof" (KJV). King Joash was saying, "Elisha, my father, you are the strength of Israel. You have been our eyes, our ears, our victory . . . but now you are leaving us!"

What was Elisha's response? He could have had a good cry too; after all, he was the one dying. Did he wallow in self-pity? No! He initiated a prophetic act to bring blessing and victory to his beloved Israel. His frail body might have been weak, but his spirit was just as alert as ever. "Take bow and arrows," he said to the king. "Put your hand upon the bow" (KJV). Then Elisha laid his hands on top of the king's hands and imparted victory. So it was not only a prophetic act, it was also an impartation of victory from Elisha to King Joash. "Open the window eastward, (and) shoot (the arrow)" (RSV). And as the arrow was shooting through the air, Elisha made a prophetic declaration, "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria: for you shall smite the Syrians in Aphek, till you have consumed them" (KJV). Then Elisha said to the king, "Take the arrows, (and) strike the ground with them." So Joash took the arrows and struck them on the ground three times. Elisha was angry with him. "You should have struck five or six times . . . now you will strike down Syria only three times" (RSV).

Verse 25 confirms their three victories over Syria, totally fulfilling the prophetic act, the impartation of victory and the prophetic declaration. King Joash was unskilled in such prophetic matters but Elisha understood the power that was unleashed as the Holy Spirit prompted him in this manner.

Are You Also Under Attack?

Perhaps you would choose to make a prophetic declaration at this time? The declaration in Exodus 15 can be your prophetic arrow, penetrating and hitting the mark against any demonic stronghold or attack of the enemy in your life at this time. Let this declaration break down walls and bring victory in the name of the Lord.

I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously. He has thrown both horse and rider into the sea. The Lord is my strength, my song, and my salvation. He is my God . . . and I will praise Him, I will exalt Him. The Lord is a Warrior, a Man of war! The Lord Jehovah is His name.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power. It dashes the enemy to pieces! In the greatness of Your Majesty You overthrow all those who rise against You.

Who else?... Who else is like the Lord? Who is glorious in holiness like You? Who else is so awesome in splendour...? A wonder-working God.

Sing to the Lord, Sing to the Lord . . . For He has triumphed gloriously. The horse and rider have been thrown into the sea (interpretation mine).

Now rise, and let the prophetic declaration be a God-glorifying reality in your life!

Some New Testament Examples Of Prophetic Acts and Declarations

Getting Launched

When Jesus came across some fishermen - Peter, James and John - going about their livelihood, He asked them if He could borrow one of their boats to use as a stage from which to teach from (Luke 5:1-11). But factually, it was going to be more than *His* platform. Jesus used this occasion to make a prophetic declaration as well as perform a prophetic act. He declared to Peter, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a catch." And, in the natural they pulled in more fish than they had ever had the delight to indulge in before. But it is the spiritual significance that I want to look into here. Jesus was

calling them prophetically (not just Peter) to do His work. They understood in the natural what is was to reel in a fish but Jesus declared they would reel in men – big-time! "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men" (NKJV). We only have to read Acts 2:41and Acts 4:4 to know that the prophetic declaration of Jesus was wonderfully fulfilled.

You might well ask, "Where did all those fish come from?" The hand of God not only performed this miracle but it was also a prophetic act; a visual sign that they truly **were** going to catch fish – human ones without scales or fins! Jesus demonstrated in the natural, before saying, "In the spiritual you will do the same but you will catch men instead of fish" (interpretation mine).

In verse 9 we read that Peter and all those with him were astonished at the catch of fish. Oh that we too would be astonished at the greatness of our God and His prophetic wonders in the earth today!

Turning Water into Wine

Jesus and His mother were guests at a wedding (John 2:1-10). The celebration was going well until they ran out of wine. Mary pressured Jesus to do something about it.

When Jesus replied, He was not speaking to His mother as a son to his mother; He was speaking to her as the Messiah; He was speaking to her as Jesus the Christ.

"Woman," He replied, "My hour has not yet come. Providing the wine is not the purpose of My calling. Don't bother Me with such trivialities" (interpretation mine).

Why, then, did Mary concern Jesus with the fact that they had run out of wine? Wasn't she just a guest at the wedding and therefore not responsible for the provision of the drink? Maybe she sensed in her spirit that the time for Jesus' public ministry had come? It seems that Mary totally ignored what her Son said to her because she made this amazing statement to the servants, "Whatever He says to you . . . DO IT!" (NKJV). Bear in mind

that up to this point Jesus had not performed one miracle; there was no earthly reason why she should have said it. But Mary's statement was a prophetic declaration, and it is just as powerful a statement today as it was the day she prophetically uttered it.

- Jesus did not turn the water into wine to please His mother.
- Jesus did not turn the water into wine to grant His mother her request.
- Jesus did it as the Son of God to glorify His Father.
- Jesus did it for more reasons than performing His first miracle.
- Jesus was performing a prophetic act.
- Jesus was signifying to them they would no longer have to wash from the ceremonial pots, which was a strict requirement of the Jewish purification rites.
- Jesus was signifying to the religious Jews that humanity would no longer need to be purified by this water.
- Jesus was signifying that they were to be washed in His blood to be made clean.
- Jesus was signifying they were to be washed in His blood to receive salvation.

He purposely chose to use the ceremonial waterpots, testifying to them that the natural element of water was to become a spiritual element of wine, representing His blood – His blood being poured out for them (and for us).

Without even realizing it, the servants at the wedding reception became part of a prophetic act. When the statement was made, "They've run out of wine," Jesus said, "Fill the water pots (washtubs!) with water!" Then Jesus said to the servants, "Pour out the wine to the governor of the feast!" And, as Mary had declared, they just had to DO IT; they didn't have to SAY a thing . . . "Whatever He says to you, DO IT!" And they did!

The comment came from the governor of the feast to the bridegroom . . . "How amazing that you should keep the best wine till last. It is the normal practice to serve the best wine first, then, when everyone has had a 'skin full,' they do not notice the decline in quality!" (interpretation mine).

- Jesus, our Bridegroom, kept the best wine till last when HE POURED OUT HIMSELF ON THE CROSS.
- He paid in full for our salvation and our healing on the Cross.

What a beautiful miracle and prophetic act it was when He turned the water into wine.

He That Hath Hairy Ears . . . !!

My brother, Rodney, the Founder/Director of "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry, tells this humorous incident of a very unusual prophetic act. While on a ministry trip to England, he was talking one morning with two pastors in Northampton, England, when, unexpectedly, one of the pastors pulled out a pair of small manicure scissors and began trimming the hairs on Rodnev's ears. Rodney thought it was a pretty unusual "ministry" this pastor had (hair one minute - gone the next!) but he felt quite relaxed and let him complete the task. About an hour later, when the pastors had left, a knock came on his door. There stood a lady from the church - a woman with a wellreceived prophetic ministry. She said to Rodney, "I've got this bizarre picture and word for you, can I share it with you? I saw you (in the Spirit) standing in America and you had these huge There was a bright light shining behind you, which ears. silhouetted your huge ears all the more. On your ears were all these little hairs, and they were standing out in the reflection of the bright light. Then, as you shook your head, the hairs on your ears fell out onto the ground. And everywhere they landed, they germinated and brought forth fruit for God. I'm telling you, you're going to have a big office in the U.S.A. and a significant ministry there."

Rodney was speechless! How was that for a prophetic act by an "innocent" pastor, followed by the interpretation from a prophetic lady! (Neither knew what the other had said or done). He now awaits its fulfilment in God's timing.

Have you, too, felt a prompting to DO something that seems 'out of the norm?'

Maybe you have not recognised it could be the Holy Spirit stirring you to minister to someone in a new, exciting way? Maybe you did not understand that it was the Holy Spirit challenging you to act prophetically in a significant way?

The Lord's Princess

One day, as I stood before a precious, hurting, rejected Christian woman, I found myself acting out the word of prophecy the Lord had given me for her. So, instead of just speaking the words, I was miming them also. I 'placed' a very beautiful gown upon her. It was exquisite, being a gown she could never have afforded or even believed that she deserved. I allowed her to 'look at herself in the mirror' and be amazed. What beauty! "Is that me?" The gown transformed her totally. The prophetic word told her that that is how the Lord sees her; dressed in a beautiful gown – a robe of righteousness - a robe specially chosen for her by the Lord Himself. So she can hold her head up high and be the princess that the Lord has called her to be - rejection was not a part of her inheritance in Christ.

When the prophet, Agabus, came to the Apostle Paul to warn him prophetically about what the Jews would do to him at Jerusalem, Agabus not only 'delivered' the word but he also acted it out; binding his own hands and feet to be more impacting. "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man (Paul) who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles" (Acts 21:10-11, NKJV).

HE IS GOD!

The plan of Jesus for His people today remains the same as when He walked this earth and discipled His followers. The Holy Spirit is sent to enable us and equip us to be able ministers of the Gospel. Not only is He very creative but He wants for us to be creative too. If we limit and contain the Word of God to just the preaching of the Word, we will stifle the plans, the purposes and the power of God in our generation. God is bigger than our small minds can comprehend. He cannot be contained to a particular method: He cannot be boxed-in to fit our theories or beliefs. HE IS GOD! Therefore, I say, let Him be God, working His prophetic ministry through the Holy Spirit in us in whatever way He knows to be best. The Word of God (the Logos) is the very foundation of our Christian life but when the Holy Spirit speaks a living, quickened, pulsating, passionate word into our spirit (a rhema word), we need to be sensitive enough to 'deliver' that word or that action in the same 'envelope' He prompts us to. "Whatever He says to you, DO IT!" Would we have dared to pour out that 'bathtub water' to the governor of the feast? I wonder!

^{*} This article is available in booklet form from The GFM Ministry.



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