QUESTION 1

HOW DO YOU HEAR GOD’S VOICE TO PROPHESY?
I hear the voice of God in many different ways... first and foremost in the word of God. The word of God is a place in the source where we can always hear the voice of God. I can hear through the word, sometimes I hear it in the audible voice; but you know if I’m just waiting around all day long to hear the audible voice of God that’s not going to happen. I have heard the voice of the Lord every day since I’ve been saved. Most of the time I don’t hear his audible voice... maybe five or 10 times in my whole life I’ve heard the audible voice of the Lord. Most times I hear in the small still voice in my spirit, I just know that I know that I know that it’s the Lord.

At times, I hear in a dream or vision. Just about every night, I get a dream and I write my dreams down and take my dreams through interpretation. So dreams and visions are one way. Sometimes I hear in my feelings or in my emotions. Sometimes in the midst of a service, I can feel depressed or heavy or tired, and I know I’m not that way right then, but I know God is trying to speak to me. Sometimes He will give me a word of knowledge during the service by a pain or a feeling in my body. These are the primary ways
that I hear Him. There’s a lot of different ways you can hear Him. You can see God in all of creation; you can see God in every person and every individual; that is what we really need to do, to know that we can hear God in many different ways.

**How do you know when you hear the voice of God if it is the voice of God or if it’s you?**

That’s a tough question, that is one that everybody that I speak to actually, at different times in their lives and in their walk, have struggled with. First of all, it’s easier for me to hear the voice of the Lord for you, than it is to hear His voice for me, to know His will and His purpose. It seems that when I ‘m seeking for the perfect will of God in my life, that I have to contend for the word. You know the word of God is the most beautiful thing, and that we don’t live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. And I reverence His word and I appreciate when He speaks to me. I go back and continue to contend with Him, not just that I heard him, but what He wants me to do. What He means when He said it; and I believe that the best way to do that is in a place of a real legitimate relationship. I believe that every time He speaks to me, He is encouraging me to go deeper in relationship. The more I begin to learn the
communication skills with God and the way that He speaks in symbols, the more likely, and easier it will be for Him to begin to speak to me. If I’m more obedient with the little then He will give me more. If I’m faithful with the little, He will always be willing to give me more.

Another thing about the prophetic work especially when moving with the prophetic gift, it’s to lift up, build up and cheer up. It’s an encouraging word, and if you are hearing an encouraging word for someone on the inside of you, that is probably the Lord speaking through you, because God wants us to build up and encourage one another in our faith. If you’re hearing something that’s discouraging, or corrective, or something that is kind of a downer, that would not be from the Lord, that could be from your soulish realm. So when you are bringing the gift of prophecy, you are encouraging, you’re building up, you’re cheering up, you are lifting up, you are comforting. When you are doing those things, you can be pretty sure you are hearing from the Lord.

And He wants us to test the spirits, and the first place that you test the spirits is in your own spirit. When you hear a word, you want to test it first in your own spirit, then you want test it with the word of God, and make sure that it doesn’t contradict His word. That’s a good starting point to know if it’s from Him or if it isn’t.
QUESTION 2

DO YOU EVER FEEL FEAR, AND WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?
I almost always feel fear. If someone says to me that they do not ever feel fear, when speaking or declaring the word of God, I get a little leery about them. It’s like somebody telling me when they go to war or a battle that they are not afraid. When you reverence the word of God, you realize that it’s a life and death thing. There is life and death on the power of the tongue, and when I declare the word of the Lord, I take it really seriously. So declaring is a serious responsibility in my own heart, first and foremost.

Sometimes if you don’t feel fear, you may be relying too much on yourself and not on the Spirit of God. So when I feel fear, I just press on the best way I know how to. Sometimes, I pray a little prayer: Lord, You haven’t given me the spirit of fear, but You have given me the spirit of love and of power and of a sound mind...and then, I will just step into it and I will lean on the gift of God, instead of leaning on the flesh.

With respect to pressing in, when I have a corporate word in church and I know that I hear the word, and I know that I have a word... the devil is trying to oppose me right then... and I feel these fears and insecurity... about what if it isn’t the word, what if it is. Sometimes, what I have to do is move myself physically and put myself into right alignment. I have to go the person that is charge and tell them I have a word.
Or if it’s during the worship and that’s the protocol in the church, then I go up and stand in place. What I have to do is oppose the Devil and resist the devil and he will flee from me. I have to draw near to God and then He will take a step towards me when I take a step towards Him. I want to oppose him with the word, and when I do that, I’m pressing beyond my fear and into a place of faith. And we prophesy according to our faith.
QUESTION 3

IF EVERYBODY WANTS A WORD HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO TO CHOOSE?
Many times the Lord lays someone on the heart, particularly if I happen to be ministering and preaching that particular service and I’m looking at the people. During the service, He will highlight different people, and sometimes He draws my heart to their heart. I will look there and I will feel drawn to that individual. Sometimes, He will show me something, like a quick vision of something. Sometimes, He will put it right over their heads so that I can see it. Sometimes, I will see a light on their face as He’s drawing me by the spirit with a word of knowledge or a simple word at that point or I will just know in my spirit that I want to go back there. Many times, I believe that it’s the hunger in the faith... in the heart of a person that is drawing me back towards them, the same way that it was with Zacchaeus. He had such a hunger and a desire that he ran down the road and climbed the sycamore tree, and he drew with faith and hunger the eyes of the Lord to him. He put a demand on the anointing. And I think that is actually what attracts me. He will at times show me a light or something over a person and I will keep looking back; it seems so natural but then, ‘bang!’ Sometimes, He will only give me one word and I will start with that one word, and I will just begin to declare it. It’s kind of the way it works.

**How do you continue in that flow when you have 30 or 40 people?**
It’s the anointing, you can draw on the anointing with your hunger and your desire to hear from God… your anticipation of receiving a word. And if you’re feeling all of those things, most likely God is going to draw the speaker’s attention (or whoever is prophesying to you,) because your own desire drew on the anointing of God. When that happens it is much easier for the person who is flowing in the prophetic ministry to keep flowing, because there is a draw on the anointing from the prophet.

Something else that may help you is that when you look at me or someone else from the Eagle Worldwide team who has been traveling across the nation and prophesying, and you hear the flow or an unction that’s on that word, I want you to know that that’s not the place where I started from. I didn’t start there and I didn’t start flowing and neither did the people who are working with us. Everyone of us had to break through that fear, and had to learn how to flow and learn how to walk. The more you do it, the stronger you get at it. It’s like riding a bicycle, you will to fall a couple times and when you fall you have to get back up. You’re going to have your moments of insecurity and uncertainty where you are going to wobble just a little bit. But you know what? You’re going to get better.
He promises in Mark 16:15-20 where He talks about going out and preaching the word and moving in the power of the Spirit. He says that He worked with them. He went then and He worked with them, he'll work with us.

It’s the Word and the Spirit together and obviously practice.

The more you do it, the better you get, and the better the flow. It’s easier for me actually to prophesy than it is for me to pray for someone. If you give me a shopping list of needs, I’m not going to remember all those things. The best I can do is just lay hands on them, I just say whatever God says.
QUESTION 4

WHEN YOU’RE PROPHESYING, AND YOU SEE A VISION, HOW DO YOU INTERPRET THE PICTURE?
That comes from a different gift; that comes from the gift of interpretation. A number of years ago I wrote a book called Night Watch, which is like a working guide for people to help them unlock their destiny through dreams and visions. The beginning of the book talks about interpretation, about hearing the voice of the Lord. It talks about how God worked particularly in my own life and how I used that revelation to actually walk me into my own destiny.

But then the whole back section of the book has symbols and colors and numbers; that will help you to interpret. Like at the beginning, as He began to speak to me, He had to tell me every little thing and I had to write everything down; before you know it I began to understand how He spoke and began to understand the symbols that He used to communicate with me. So now all He has to do is to share something with me and I begin to go there and when I start, He just gives me more. If I’m faithful with the little, He’ll give me more.
QUESTION 5

WHAT ARE THE HINDRANCES PEOPLE HAVE FROM WALKING IN THEIR PROPHETIC WORD?
The primary one is fear. Learning to overcome our fears and our insecurities. Another one is faith; not that we have a lack of faith but we do not apply faith. By applying my faith, I have to step out in it, and I have to be willing to step into a vulnerable place beyond myself. You see, when I begin to move in the gifts of the Spirit, when I begin moving in prophecy or a word of knowledge, it confounds my own mind. It doesn’t make sense to me. Sometimes I look at you and everything that I’m seeing and hearing and proclaiming looks nothing like what I’m seeing in the natural. So I have to press beyond that and just begin to say what I feel in my heart. I have to move into that place of faith.

Another big hindrance in fact is the lack of training that exists by and large in the body of Christ. There have been seasons where there was no training and no instruction. Prophetic voices were hearing the voice of the Lord, not understanding their own emotions, not understanding what to do with it. I believe what God is doing now is raising up the Office Gift of the Prophet who will not only prophesy but will teach the foundations of hearing the voice of the Lord, protocol, and understanding. That’s what we do every month with the Prophetic Edge email we send out.
It’s a teaching email sent every month to people. It is a basic teaching. The more I can put the word and the understanding together and the more I can put it into practice in my own life, the stronger that I’m going to be.

What are the hindrances for personal prophecy being fulfilled in a person’s life? Well, you have to align yourself with the word of God. When God tells you to do something, then you need to prepare yourself for that. One thing people do lots of time is-a take the word God has given them, and instead of testing the spirit of the word and churning it up and seeing that it’s the Lord, they put it on the shelf and they decide that’s for a later time and that it’s not a now decision. The Bible says to judge the word. If the word bears witness in your spirit and aligns you with the word, take the word, use it as a weapon of warfare against the enemy and war with that word and believe God. Exercise your faith and step into it, step into the word. I remember when God began to speak to both Russ and I about getting married we had to step into that word. See, you have to step into it if you want the word to be fulfilled in your life.

Stepping into it is very important, applying your faith to it. Another thing you want to do is to guard your heart. The enemy will send someone or a message to you or something in your own mind that will try to oppose the word of God. Sometimes
it’s our own tradition. The Bible tells us in Mark that our own traditions and cultures oppose the word of God in our lives. They will bring the word of God to no effect.

Whether it's the spoken word, the written word or the Rhema Word... so what I have to do is to press beyond my own tradition, my own culture, my own fears, my own insecurities and I have to be careful who I share that with. God says not to cast our pearls before the swine. You know, when God speaks something to me I don’t always declare that publicly, or I don’t go around telling anybody in my family what God has spoken to me. Sometimes, I’m waiting on God for a confirmation, and sometimes, I don't need that negative input that a lot of people just happen to bring very naturally. Certainly my cousin would think that if anybody was going to be used of God to change and impact people’s lives, it would certainly be him more than it would be me, because he knows all the weaknesses in my life. The best thing that I can do is to just ponder that word in my heart and protect it. Joseph I think spoke out of turn and he caused himself some heartache and opened up himself to some of the hindrances of the negative feedback and consequences of speaking out of order.
QUESTION 6

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES PROPHETIC PEOPLE MAKE?
That is probably protocol. God wants the words that I speak to be impactful. He wants the words that I speak to have impact. If He tells them to me and He shares them with me and He wants me to share them publicly or openly in a meeting corporately, or over a nation, I have to be sure that I do it in the right setting, or in the right protocol so that I am received. I see so many people using wrong protocol, out of order or not under proper spiritual authority and they just began to fire away, shooting from the hip and before you know it, they are no longer able or released to minister in the church prophetically. If God opens up a door to you, you need to utilize the right protocol and the right spiritual authority so that that door will remain open for you in the future and you can be impactful long term, bringing the word of God and utilizing your gift into the strongest place that it can be.

Another mistake I’ve seen people make, even in our own ministry, as we are learning and training. You know the sanctuary is the place of equipping and we love to equip the Saints for the work of ministry here at Eagle worldwide. So we are always releasing prophetic voices. But one of the
common mistakes I see is that people will get up and want to preach, or they want to exhort and what they’re supposed to be doing is bringing the word of the Lord. When you’re bringing the word of the Lord, you’re bringing the word of God to the church. You’re not a spokesman to the church, you’re not called to preach the message that morning but you’re bringing a quick and sharp word from the Lord that encourages and lifts the body to another level during worship.

Also in 1 Corinthians12, when Paul talks about the Gifts of the spirit, he talks about how utilizing the gift of prophecy is like a trumpet sound. He said let it be clear. And sometimes people begin to speak and because of their insecurities or uncertainties they won't make themselves be properly heard. You know that word needs to be heard across the whole body and that it needs to be said clearly, slowly and as accurately as you can. When He starts you start, when He stops you stop. Don’t embellish the word, don’t keep going on and on, just bring the word He gives you and let the impact be by the Spirit of God and not by the hand of man.
QUESTION 7

IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WORD OR PICTURE SHOULD YOU GO AHEAD AND PROPHESY?
That happens to me quite often, but I believe it happens more often the further along you get in your gifting. At the beginning he will give you just a little bit more but there’s always the challenge of faith to have to press on. I remember when I first came to Canada, I was here only about a week or so, and I met up with Joan Gieson and a wonderful group in Brantford Ontario, and during worship – and I had been prophesying for number of years – during worship, and you were doing worship that day, the Lord said ‘Oh Canada’ and I thought, I know I have a word ‘oh Canada’. I didn’t know what ‘Oh Canada’ meant, I didn’t know where the Lord was headed but I went up to Joan and told her I had a word. During a break in worship, she handed me the mic and I said, “Oh Canada.”

And I heard nothing. Then I said, “Oh Canada” and I heard nothing. I’m just trying to step out on that word. The third time I said ‘oh Canada’ it came like a flood, like a rush in my spirit. “Oh Canada, I have not forgotten you. You are the apple of my eye” and you know He began to talk about the end time mandate and plans He had for the nation of Canada, that He was going to pour out healing on the nation of Canada, and pour them out upon the nations of the world to bring healing to the nations and their end time mandate. But you know, if I would have waited to get the whole message, I may not have gotten it. I can only prophesy according to my
faith so once I have a word from God I step up and put myself in a position to be used.

Sometimes on the way to church I say Lord, tell me if there is anything that you want me to share; you know I’m open to hearing from You. Sometimes it’s just that one word, sometimes in a dream and a vision or in an interpretation He gives me a whole strategy and a plan for birthing a church, for taking the city or a new aspect of Ministry. He will do it lots of different ways. Sometimes it’s just that one word and believe me it’s a test; it’s always a test. He’s testing my faith and bringing me to the edge. He wants me to exercise my faith. And it brings pleasure to His heart when you step out in faith.
QUESTION 8

HOW DOES THAT PROPHETIC PROTOCOL WORK OUTSIDE THE CHURCH?
When I travel, I prophesied just as much outside the typical church setting as I do in. I’ll prophesy over the phone, I prophesy over lunch, I’ll prophesy over the waitress in the restaurant or the bellhop in the hotel or someone on the plane or train. I’m apt to prophesy, I want to be instant in season and out of season. Depending on the circumstances or the situation, I need to use wisdom; if it’s an unusual place or if I don’t know if the person is a believer, the Bible says that the wise with souls and the prophetic gift will certainly open up the door for power evangelism for an encounter with God. Prophetic Evangelism is an important part of my life and my walk. One time I was in a restaurant in North Carolina and God told me He had a word for a lady; we all sat down to eat and I asked the people at my table to intercede and pray. When I went over to see the lady, I didn’t know her, I just said “ma’am you know I’m a minister and I happen to be on the road and when I walked in and I saw you the Lord laid something on my heart and I just would like to share it with you. Would that be alright?” I didn’t want to scare her. I didn’t want to act super spiritual. You know other times I’ll just share that word in a very natural way and people will understand me and know the impact. It won’t be with the “Thee’s and Thou’s and the Those,” but you can tell that it’s the word of the Lord.
Sometimes, God opens up the door for me to be in a place where the gift of prophecy is not understood nor even recognized and certainly the Office Gift of the Prophet is not. And I don’t want to go in there like a cowboy shooting up the place, I want to go in there and just use wisdom. I believe that Paul talked about in Ephesians 1:17-18 that the eyes of our understanding would be enlightened, That we would know the hope of our calling, that we would have the spirit of revelation, wisdom, and understanding and that’s one of the keys to hearing the voice of the Lord and operating and walking in your gifting. It’s always how we approach a person because we always want to bear the fruit of the Spirit as well as having the gifts of the Spirit in operation.
The Office Gift of the Prophets is in Ephesians chapter 4 verse 11 and 12 where Paul talks about the five fold ministry. It’s a leadership gift in the church like the apostle or the prophet, the teacher, the evangelist and the pastor. They are the five offices that Christ walked in when He was on the earth, and on the day of his ascension that’s what He spoke to his people and that’s what He left on earth. They are leadership giftings in the church. Not everyone that prophesies is a prophet, but every prophet will prophesy. Because the gift of prophecy is available to every believer and it’s laid out in the teachings of Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 – 14. This is the greatest condensed teaching in my opinion of operating in the gifts of the Spirit. The gift of prophecy is one of the nine signature gifts of the Holy Spirit and made available to everyone who has Holy Spirit in their heart; so whether it’s the gift of healing or miracles, or prophecy it’s available to every believer. But now the Office Gift is a leadership gift in the church where you’re actually recognized in your calling and gifting. When I see someone who moves in the Office Gift of the Prophets, most of the time there’s going to be a different level of anointing and unction that’s on that word. You can hear and feel the substance. You’ll see a proficiency on that word,
you’ll see it come to pass very often and the role of the prophet is not just to prophesy but actually to raise up other prophetic voices. And the prophet also laid hands on other prophets like Elijah and Elisha. The prophet also laid hands on kings and leaders and government officials, and put them in place. It’s one of the foundational gifts in the body according to Ephesians 2:19-20 where Paul talks about the foundational gifts of the apostle and prophet laying the foundation in the building gifts. So they can identify the gifts and the call of each believer and how they fit rightly-formed together to build the house of God.

As you move in your prophetic gift, You want to stay in the gifting areas that God has called you to. And sometimes when I stand up in the church and I prophesy, I’m operating in the gift of prophecy. I may not be in my church where I’m recognized as a prophet or in my own fellowship or denomination, but when I’m recognized in that particular place as a prophet, there are different responsibilities that are on me and different mandates. The prophet also tests the word; the Bible says that when you prophesy then let the prophet test that word.
We have been blessed to raise up hundreds of people in their prophetic gifting and calling, through the school of the prophet, the Days of Elijah workshops and conferences that we hold across the country or through a written word. It’s a wonderful thing to see people begin to move in their gifting.

One of the things I follow as I’m raising up someone in the prophetic gift, is the New Testament model for prophecy according to 1 Corinthians 14:3. (Not the Office Gift of the Prophet but in the prophetic gift.)

It’s not dates and not mates. It’s not prophesying direction to a person that’s going to change their life for the church they go to, but it’s really meant to be uplifting, and encouraging and to bring exhortation, encouragement and comfort. If it’s not for that and you are operating in the gift of prophecy, then you really want to use it for intercession and you want to use it to prepare the heart of that person to receive it at another moment.