



# WHY DOES GOD GIVE US REVELATION?

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Enjoy the adventure of discovery that revelation takes you on.

# A note from Lyn



Hi, I'm Lyn Packer and I lead the School of Prophets Aotearoa.

I love receiving revelation from God, and learning the information I'm about to share with you in this training guide is something that transformed my life and ministry.

When I began to understand the different reasons why God gives us revelation it really helped me know what to do with the revelation I received.

*Prov 4:1-7 tells us, "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."*

Gaining understanding and walking in wisdom should never be under-rated; they are vital to living a life that is blessed, and that is a blessing to others.

I pray that you'll find this training as helpful as I've found it to be in my own life.

Bless you heaps

Lyn

**LET'S DO IT!**



# GOD IS RELATIONAL

The things I'm about to share with you have played a huge part in shaping how I function in prophetic ministry. The longer I've been in ministry the more I've discovered that I know so very little. I suspect you are a bit like me in that – you've come to realize that there is so much more to learn about how our revelatory gifts operate, and why God gives us revelation.

Maybe that is why you've downloaded this guide – to discover more about how the revelatory gifts function. It's important to understand how they work in our lives because if we don't grow in understanding, and learn how to use our gifts well, we can unwittingly let our gifts rule us instead of learning how to steward them with wisdom and discernment.

Which leads us to this question, "Why does God give us revelation; what's His purpose in doing so?"

The first reason is, God is relational. He loves to share His heart with those He has a relationship with. We can relate to God like a servant to his or her master, but that's not what He wants; that's not why He made us.

The vast majority of the revelation you receive from the Lord will be related to your personal relationship with Him, and your life and your growth.



When God is sharing things relationally it often doesn't require us to share that with anyone else; all He asks of us is for us to relate to Him and to enjoy the conversation with Him. During that conversation we may gain an understanding of His heart on a matter, get context for specific situations, and receive insight and wisdom. Part of the reason for this is so that our mind is renewed and restored to see, understand and think like He does about things.



As you spend time together He'll unfold to you the depths of who the Trinity are. You'll discover different aspects of their nature – their love, care, mercy, grace, power, and much, much more. You'll experience what it means for God to be your shepherd, to be your wise counsel, to be the lover of your soul...there's so much of God to get to know.

You'll discover aspects of how the Kingdom of Heaven works – not because God wants servants, but because you're a member of His family and this is your Kingdom, too. As you come to understand that you are made in the image of God, and you experience how God is with you in your relationship, you'll discover that you, too, have the same qualities of love, mercy, kindness, and patience in your own life. You'll discover that the fruit of that – what we call the fruits of the Spirit – which are the manifestation of the nature of God, are being restored and growing to fullness in you.

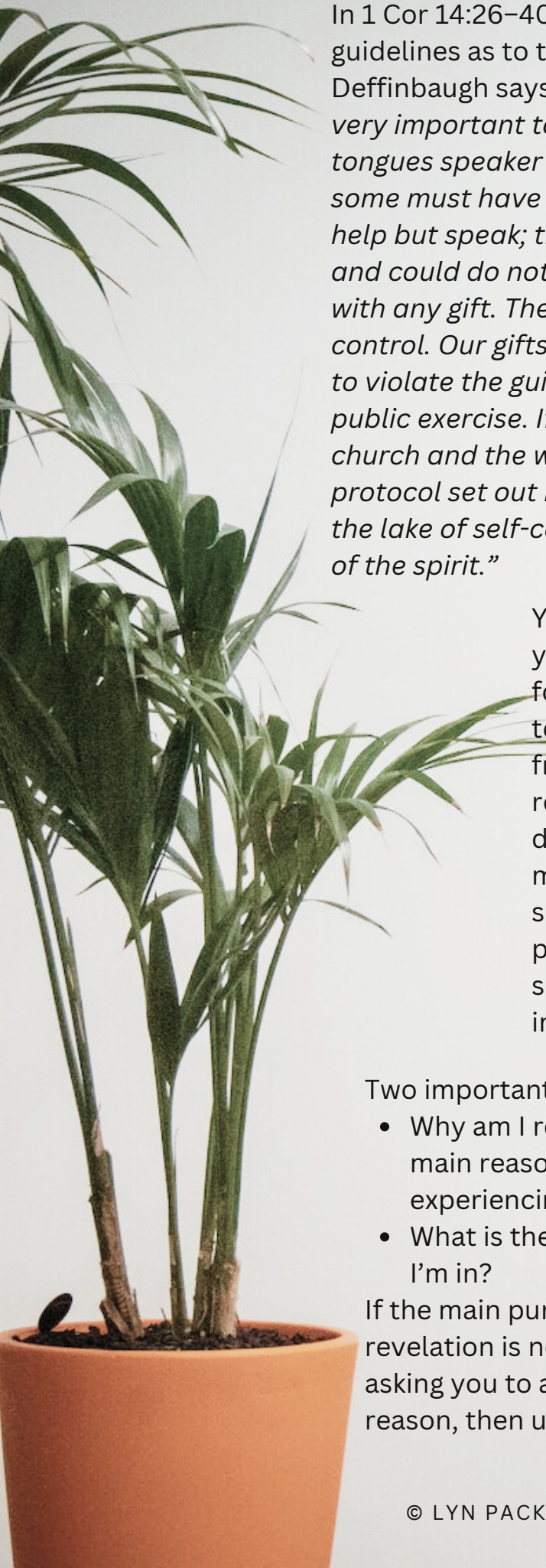
To be in a loving relationship with the Creator of all is no small thing. God saw you and knew you from the foundation of time. He created you for a relationship with Him, and you cannot separate your relationship with Him from revelation - that's how you get to know Him. Whether it's a Bible verse being highlighted and unpacked to you by Holy Spirit, a vision, a supernatural miracle happening, or the still small whisper of God to your heart and mind, revelation is relational at heart. It is all an invitation to a deeper place of relationship with the Trinity.

# YOUR GIFT IS ON AND FUNCTIONING

The second reason you receive revelation is this; your gifts are turned on and functioning. The purpose of the revelatory gifts is to feed you information and revelation, that's their job. Your gift can transmit information to you at any time because it's turned on. Just as you can choose to bring your normal thoughts into submission, you can bring your supply of spiritual information into submission, too. You can even turn it off altogether, and many people make that choice because they have been overwhelmed with the amount of revelation they receive, and haven't realized that they can bring their gift into submission to themselves and God. Your gift was not given to you so that you would be its slave; it is meant to be a blessing to you and to others, but if the gift rules you it can go from being a blessing to being a pain. That's why we are called to learn how to steward it and manage the gift that God gives us. Learn how to operate the gift, and how to bring it into service to you and to those around you.

One of the fruits of the spirit is self-control (Gal 5:22,23). Self-control is not just about stopping yourself from doing bad things; self-control is about being in control of yourself, your thoughts, your responses, your time, your gifts and skills, being disciplined, etc. Self-control helps you determine what to give your attention and time to. To bring your gift under control, or into submission, is part of stewarding your gift wisely.





In 1 Cor 14:26–40 we see Paul giving the Corinthians guidelines as to the public use of their gifts. Bob Deffinbaugh says the following about that passage – *“It is very important to note that Paul assumed that the tongues speaker had full control of this gift. No doubt, some must have given the impression that they could not help but speak; that they were overcome by the holy spirit and could do nothing else but speak. This is not the case with any gift. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are under our control. Our gifts do not control us, nor do they compel us to violate the guidelines that Paul lays down here for their public exercise. If a message is spoken in tongues in the church and the way it is administered violated the protocol set out in the Word of God, it was violated due to the lack of self-control of the speaker, not the compulsion of the spirit.”*

Your gift can, and sometimes will, distract you from other things you should be focusing on. For example, you may be out to dinner with your spouse, or some friends, and while you’re eating you start receiving revelation concerning the other diners. If you let your gift rule in that moment you will probably leave your spouse, or friends, to minister to those people, and in doing so, possibly make your spouse, or friends, feel that they are less important to you than using your gift.

Two important things to discover are...

- Why am I receiving this revelation? Which of the four main reasons for receiving revelation am I experiencing in this moment?
- What is the main purpose of this moment/situation I’m in?

If the main purpose is to have time with friends, and the revelation is not a life or death matter, or God is not asking you to act on it for a specific and important reason, then use your self-control.

**Take note** – not all revelation needs to be acted on; some revelations are simply your gift working. Learn to distinguish between what is simply your gift at work, doing what it does, and what is important and needs to be acted on.

In 1 Cor 14:32 Paul says, *“The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet.”*

You can, and should, bring your gift into submission – not only to yourself, but to others as well, as we see in these passages (1 Thess 5:20,21; 1 Cor 14:29) where their gifts were brought into personal and corporate submission.

Understand that spontaneity and compulsion are not always synonymous with spirituality. Compulsion is not a fruit of the Spirit, but self-control is.

Unfortunately, too many prophetic people minister from a feeling of compulsion that overrides everything else, including good sense, and they don't think to stop and access wisdom and strategy. If you feel a strong sense of compulsion to act on information you receive, stop and ask the Lord if this feeling of compulsion is from Him, or is it coming from your human reactions and emotions, a misunderstanding of how to use your gift, or even from the kingdom of darkness.

**The compulsion to  
act can come from  
several sources –  
learn to discern  
where the  
compulsion is  
coming from.**







## How do you bring your gift into submission?

**Examine it** – ask some questions in regard to it. Don't be afraid to examine what is happening. Examining what is happening is good stewardship. Some of the things listed below will help with that. Ask questions like...

- Where is this information coming from? Remember that information and revelation can come from other sources apart from God. Those other sources are also vying for your attention and cooperation.
- Why is this information coming now? What is its purpose? – to give me information that I need? Is it urgent, and does it actually need to take priority over other things, or can it wait a bit for my attention? Is it to give me information that clarifies a situation, or is it to distract me from what I am currently doing?
- Why is it coming to me? What is my part in this? Is it gift on? – so I am automatically receiving information. Is it for my training? If so, how – training in processing and interpreting the revelation I receive, training in discerning things like source, action needed, etc, or is there an assignment attached to this?
- What am I supposed to do with it? What actions do I need to take? What is my assignment, if any?

**Examine your motives** – ask, why do I need to share this, act on this, do this...? Is it because it is needed now (it's the right time, or it's relevant to that moment), or is it because of other reasons? Those reasons may be because this is my passion, my favourite thing to do, or I may have a need to be noticed, accepted, to prove myself etc. Maybe I like the attention and to hear myself speak. Sometimes our motives are hidden from us until we take the time to examine them.

**Speak to yourself** – just as you can encourage yourself in the Lord, you can also discipline yourself in the Lord and exercise self-control. Understand that self-control is a form of showing love and respect, both for your gift and for others.

You can speak to your heart and mind – let them know that you are in control, tell them to be calm, that you will discern with the Lord what needs to be done and when. Bring your gift into submission to yourself and the mind of Christ, as Scripture tells you to.

Keep bringing it under submission. Often one time won't be enough, especially if you believe that God will be disappointed with you, or angry with you, if you don't act. This mindset will force you to do many things that you don't need to do, all in order to try and appease God and to gain His acceptance and approval.

## **Important note to self...**

**Not all revelation  
needs to be focused  
on, or acted on.**



# TRAINING

Our number three reason for receiving revelation is training. Many times people don't understand that a lot of the revelation they receive is simply to help train them, not to give them an assignment. In my life I share possibly about 5% of the revelation I receive, and I know that for many other mature prophets the percentage is about the same. The rest of the time the revelation is either for my life personally, to train me further in listening and processing, or because God is simply sharing His heart with me.

We need to learn how our gifts operate, and how to administer (use) them. Therefore sometimes God shows us stuff to train us – in listening, processing, interpretation, wisdom, timing, application, what to say and what to leave out, and more...

In a training revelation the most important thing is for us to learn the lesson God wants to teach us. Training revelations usually don't have a sharing assignment attached to them. In them you are learning how to master your gift, steward it wisely, and process the revelation you receive, but you carry no responsibility other than to learn. Your administration of the gift at this time is to learn and grow in understanding of how the gift operates in your life.

E.g. If you were given the gift of a horse you would have to learn how to ride it, become its master, learn how to control it so it doesn't run wild with you on its back, as well as look after it, etc. Imagine what it would be like if you got your horse and didn't believe that you needed to become its master, training it to serve you. What would that look like every time you wanted to ride it? It would be a battle of either comedic or tragic quality to those watching on. They would possibly fear for you, or they may pity you, laugh at you, and not take you seriously as a rider. Many Christians are like that with their gifts; they have not learned how to use them properly so that the gift serves them, and others, in the way it was created to. Sadly, that means that many people do fear for them, pity them, or even laugh at them, saying things like, "There he/she goes again, another weird vision, another prophecy which makes no real sense," or "I pity their spouse; they must be a hard person to live with."



## What sort of things might God be training us in?

- **To learn to discern where a revelation is coming from.** What's its source – God and the Kingdom of Heaven, my own heart and desires, the demonic realm, or the voice of the world?
- **How to listen carefully** and not jump to conclusions or make assumptions about what we are hearing or seeing.
- **How to release His Kingdom** – to discern and understand what is needed in any given situation. To spread love, goodness, kindness, compassion, service, forgiveness, to release healing, bring deliverance etc.
- **To better reveal Himself** or to provide evidence of His existence to a person..
- **How to lay aside our opinions and perspectives** so we can more clearly hear His perspective.
- **How to process and interpret well** what we hear or see.
- He might be training us in **self-control**. Humility, and allowing God to restrain us whenever He wishes, is a mark of maturity.
- **To recognise the training season we are in** - e.g. He may have been training you over some time on how to boldly declare His Word without being afraid of anyone, but is now switching to training you how to hold back from speaking, even when you've clearly heard from Him, until He moves you to speak it out.

- To learn whether the thing He is showing us is **an eternal truth** we need to understand, **an eternal reality** we need to be aware of, or **an assignment** we need to go on.
- If it's visual in form, such as a vision or experience – **what of this revelation is literal**, and what is symbolic, a parable, or metaphor?
- **How to get a clear understanding of what God is actually saying** so we can communicate a clear word.
- **To gain an understanding of what needs sharing** and what is for our benefit and training.
- **How to form a clear prophetic word** that is easy for people to understand.
- **To be silent** – It may be that God has other prophetic voices who will speak out the word, and our role is only to intercede and observe.
- The word may be part of a series on the same issue, and **He wants us to wait on Him** in the place of prayer until we have a complete word.
- **To correct our heart's attitude.** Sometimes we can have an accurate word from God, but our heart is wrong, e.g, when we don't love the people we are being sent to. People don't just feed on what we release prophetically; they feed on who we are, so if we carry the wrong spirit, they'll get defiled.
- The word may be meant for a certain person/people, at a specified time, and in a specific forum, and so **until these are in alignment, He holds you back.**
- He may also be training us **wait in the secret place with that word until it works in us first**, and produces the fruit that it will eventually also produce in others. It's important to note here – if you release a word concerning something, but you're living an opposite life, then you expose yourself to the consequences, including divine correction or spiritual attacks.

Training is something that continues our whole life. There is always more to learn about ourselves, God, and His Kingdom. Many of the revelations we receive will either be all about training, or will have a training aspect to them – even the words we get to share.



# ASSIGNMENT

Sometimes the revelation we receive has a specific assignment attached to it. In 2 Cor 3:6 Paul says that, *“He (God) has made us competent ministers of the New Covenant”*. The word ‘minister’ means a waiter, or someone sent on an errand. In my life I’ve found that there have been two main types of assignments – prayer assignments, and sharing assignments.

**Prayer assignment** – Sometimes the assignment we get given is to pray, and we might never get to share with others what we saw, heard, or prayed through. Be faithful to pray until you feel the release from God to stop praying. Your prayers may take many different forms – from petition, declaration, and decree, weeping and groanings, and more. I suggest that if you haven’t already, do some study on the different types of prayer, because as prophetic voices we need to know how to pray.

**Sharing assignment** – We may receive revelation, and upon asking the Lord about it He gives us a sharing assignment, or we feel a strong urge or compulsion to act concerning it – to pray, to share, to speak blessing over someone, to release something of heaven into the earth, to warn of things to come (or to do something about stopping it), or to help people prepare for it. In this instance, we do carry a responsibility to do something.



## In a sharing assignment...

Be careful to surrender any personal opinions, or perspectives, you have to the Lord during the time of processing before sharing the word. If you offer your own opinions mixed in with the word from God it will make it a tainted word.

Ask the Lord questions to find out exactly what He wants you to do. Every answer to the questions you ask will tell you in greater detail how, when, where, and to whom, you are supposed to share what you have seen or heard. Remember to be obedient to what God shows you. Don't wimp out at this stage in the revelation.



## Some possible questions to ask...

- Am I supposed to share what You've shown me? If so, when – now, or at a later date?
- How much, if any, of the actual original communication do I share. e.g. of a vision, an experience?
- Who do I share it with – a particular person, my pastor, my church, or wider than that?
- When should I share it?
- What form do I share it in – spoken, written, drawn, story, painting, sung, posted on social media, etc?
- Do I offer further explanation or teaching to go with it?

I'm sure you will come up with other questions as you process with the Lord, but for now, that's enough to begin with.



# IN FINISHING

I hope this guide has been helpful to you. I know the information in it was incredibly helpful to me when I discovered it. I am still amazed that the God who created the universe wants to share things with me. What an awesome thing it is to be in a relationship with Him!

Your relationship with Him will be equally full of wonder as the revelation He gives you invites you on amazing journeys and adventures in loving Him and loving others. Enjoy the adventure! *“He has made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Christ Jesus)”* Eph 1:9.

I pray that your times with the Lord be full of rich revelation that feeds both you and others.

Arohanui - much love

Lyn

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A photograph of a branch with several green leaves and a small white tag attached to it with a wooden stick. The tag has handwritten text in cursive and a printed message below it.

Thank you

For allowing me to walk alongside  
you in your growth journey.