

Rev. Austin Ukporme



THE DANGERS IN PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Prophets, Prophecies, and Pitfalls

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The Dangers in Prophetic Ministry

- *Prophets, Prophecies, and Pitfalls*

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Foreword

The prophetic ministry remains one of the most powerful and, at the same time, one of the most misunderstood offices within the Body of Christ. Throughout Scripture, God has consistently used His prophets to reveal His mind, strengthen His people, and call His Church back to righteousness. Yet history also reminds us that great spiritual authority must always be accompanied by deep character, humility, and unwavering submission to God.

As editors, our responsibility has been to faithfully preserve the preacher's voice while carefully refining the transcript for readability, correcting transcription errors, improving grammar and punctuation, and organizing the content into a format suitable for study without altering the substance or intent of the message.

Whether you are a prophet, pastor, ministry leader, or a believer seeking to understand the prophetic ministry more deeply, this book offers timely instruction. It challenges readers to pursue spiritual gifts with wisdom, to steward prophetic words responsibly, to resist the subtle dangers that accompany influence, and to cultivate the character necessary to sustain genuine spiritual authority.

It is our prayer that this book will not simply increase your knowledge of the prophetic but will deepen your reverence for God, strengthen your commitment to holiness, and inspire you to become a faithful steward of every grace He has entrusted to you.

May the Holy Spirit grant you understanding as you read, and may His Word produce lasting transformation in your life.

For His Kingdom,

— *Wisdom Epsi*

Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

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A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here



Introduction

You may want to title this discourse "**Prophets, Prophecies, and Pitfalls.**"

Standing on the foundation already laid through the teachings we have received during this conference, I may not have the time to define every term. Reverend Gideon has already done that. Prophet Jesse Jangfa also addressed these subjects yesterday. Reverend Tolu touched on them from **Genesis 20**, explaining the law of first mention in relation to the prophetic. Dr. Schollah also did an incredible job yesterday and the day before.

I encourage you to listen to those messages repeatedly.

Then our mother ministered to us yesterday with such depth and fire. Thank you so much, Ma.

This morning, I will move quickly because my emphasis is on **the prophetic pitfalls.**

The Beauty and Treachery of the Prophetic Office

I want to begin by saying that the prophetic ministry is dazzling. The prophetic ministry is captivating. The prophetic ministry is attractive. Yet, the prophetic ministry is also treacherous.

Do you understand what I mean?

The prophetic office is beautiful, colorful, and fascinating. It is also highly unpredictable. If you are truly called as a prophet and you have genuinely committed yourself to the Lord, your life will not become predictable. It is an office of divine unpredictability.

You may be laughing with someone one moment, and the next moment you become withdrawn because the Lord has arrested your attention. People may not understand your gestures or your silence.

As beautiful and glorious as the prophetic office is, it is equally demanding and dangerous. It is one office that can bring you to the point where you question your own calling. There will be moments when you ask the Lord, "Did You truly call me to be a prophet?"

If you have never reached that point, you may need to examine your journey carefully.

Yesterday, Prophet Jesse Jangfa said that prophets will pass through the implications of the words they deliver. In other words, every genuine prophet must be tested by the very words he or she proclaims.

The Prophet's First Loyalty

The first thing you must understand about a prophet is this: **His loyalty is to God.**

The voice of a prophet is not for sale. The voice of a prophet is not to be bought. Everything about the prophet—his speech, conduct, mannerisms, and entire life—is meant to point people toward the Lord because he is God's mouthpiece.

Therefore, the prophet's loyalty is not first to people. It is not first to a nation. It is not even first to those to whom he is sent. The prophet's ultimate loyalty is to the Lord.

The Prophet Is Introduced by God

The second thing to understand is that no one introduces himself into the prophetic office.

God introduces His prophets. The prophet must be announced by the Lord. When someone says, "I am a prophet," it should only be because God has already established that calling upon his life. Consider Samuel. Samuel never introduced himself as a prophet. Rather, the Scripture says:

"And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD."

— **1 Samuel 3:20 (KJV)**

Likewise, the Lord told Jeremiah that he had been ordained to be "a prophet unto the nations."

The pattern is consistent. A prophet is called by God. Chosen by God. Ordained by God. You do not become a prophet simply because you can prophesy. Neither do you become a prophet because you once gave an accurate word of knowledge.

If you understand that, say, "Amen."

The Fear of God: The Governing Principle

Another controlling force within the prophetic office is **the fear of God**. Recently, someone came to my office and sat before me. He told me the amount of money in his account—close to one billion. Then he asked, "What should I do?"

If you saw this man, you would never imagine he possessed such wealth. He said, "You are my father. You are my pastor. I came to seek your counsel."

Now, if the fear of God is absent, it would be very easy to manufacture a prophetic word.

You could suddenly begin speaking in tongues, declare, "Thus says the Lord," and manipulate the situation for personal gain.

But the fear of God restrains a prophet.

So I simply told him,

"First, move the money out of your account and keep it somewhere safe. Then let us pray."

To this day, I have not yet given him an answer.

Even though we are in a building project, I could easily have said,

"Sow one hundred million naira into the church. We need generators. Three of our generators broke down in one day."

It would have sounded spiritual.

But the fear of God would not permit it.

The Prophet Must Walk in the Fear of God

The prophet must continually operate within the fear of God. Many privileges and advantages will come your way. People will trust you. People will believe your words.

Sometimes, a single statement from your mouth can determine the course of someone's life. For that reason, every prophetic declaration must proceed from the fear of God.

If you understand that, say, "Amen."

The words of a prophet are never meant to glorify himself.

They are meant to honor God and bring glory to His name.

Demonstrating the Prophetic

As he ministered, Rev. Austin began ministering prophetically to individuals present in the meeting.

He declared that there was a lawyer either in the auditorium or connected online who had a legal brief involving a bank and had been unable to resolve the matter. He invited the individual to identify himself so the Lord's instruction concerning the matter could be delivered.

He also declared restoration over someone who had lost something precious, saying that the Lord showed him a vision of something valuable slipping from the person's hands. He invited the individual to come forward in faith as the congregation continued in prayer.

The Lifestyle of the Prophet

The prophetic office is also defined by the lifestyle of the prophet.

The life of the prophet matters.

Not merely the life he chooses for himself, but the life God has chosen for him.

A prophet cannot live without divine restraint.

He cannot simply do whatever he pleases.

He is the mouthpiece of the Lord.

Therefore, he speaks only what reflects the mind and counsel of God.

God's Trusted Confidential Partner

One remarkable privilege of the prophetic office is access to the secrets of God. A prophet becomes, if I may use the expression, God's confidential partner. When God desires to reveal His counsel on the earth, He often entrusts it to a prophet.

However, this privilege carries responsibility.

A prophet must know how to keep secrets.

It is not because God speaks carelessly.

Rather, when God entrusts His counsel to a prophet, He expects that prophet to guard it faithfully.

Many times, Prophet Jesse Jangfa and I discuss matters privately, yet those conversations never become public.

There are prophecies the Lord entrusted to me concerning this nation several years ago that remain unspoken.

Had I spoken them prematurely, people might have celebrated me as a global prophet.

Instead, the Lord restrained me.

I sought counsel from my spiritual father, and he instructed me to remain silent.

The Lord was asking me one question:

"Can I trust you with My secrets?"

Knowing When to Speak

Several years before a presidential election, the Lord spoke to me concerning a political leader who would never become president.

He revealed the reasons behind that decision. I reported the revelation privately to my spiritual father. His counsel was simple: "Do not say anything publicly."

I obeyed.

During that same season, the Lord showed me concerning two individuals who would never become the president of Nigeria. Again, He instructed me to remain silent.

A prophet is not talkative.

A prophet must know not only **what** God is saying, but also **when** God permits it to be spoken.

As our father, Apostle Arome Osayi, often says:

"God is not a talkative. He does not speak always, but He answers much."

Understanding the Categories of Prophecy

Let us now consider prophecy itself. Please keep **Deuteronomy 18** open before you as we continue. We have often categorized prophecy into two dimensions, but I would like to introduce a third.

The first category is **prophecy through the gift of the Spirit**. This is what Scripture refers to as the gift of prophecy. In this operation, God borrows your voice, even though you are not called into the office of a prophet.

He simply desires to communicate with His people through you. As the gift operates, God speaks through your mouth, often in the first person:

"I am the Lord..."

The operation of this gift involves three important dimensions:

- Revelation
- Inspiration
- Illumination

Each plays a role in how God communicates His mind through the believer. This gift can minister to individuals, to others, to churches, to nations, and even to territories.

Wherever God chooses to speak, the gift of prophecy may find expression.

The Gift of Prophecy and the Office of the Prophet

There is, however, a distinction between the gift of prophecy and the office of the prophet. The gift of prophecy primarily functions in three areas described by Scripture:

- Edification
- Exhortation
- Comfort

However, the ministry of a prophet extends beyond those three functions.

A prophet does more than encourage.

He does more than comfort.

He does more than edify.

Many of us have been taught that the only prophecy we should receive is one that merely confirms what God has already told us.

That principle applies largely to the operation of the gift of prophecy.

The office of the prophet, however, carries a broader governmental responsibility in communicating the counsel of God.

The Weight of Being Recognized as a Prophet

Several years ago, I accompanied my father somewhere. As he introduced me to the family, he said, "This is my son. He is a prophet."

The moment he said those words, I understood exactly what he expected. He expected me to bring the word of the Lord. That is one reason I often introduce myself simply as **Reverend Austin**.

If I enter a place as a reverend and the Lord gives me nothing to say, there is no pressure. No one expects a prophetic word. But once you are introduced as a prophet, expectations immediately change. My father ministered words of encouragement and prayed for the family.

Then he turned to me and asked: "Reverend Austin, do you have something to say?"

As my father prayed, the Lord opened my eyes, and I saw the flag of the United States.

I looked at the man before me and asked,

"Sir, do you have anything to do with the United States?"

I asked the question because the Lord had already shown me that He was preparing to relocate him to the United States, where He would give him a better job and establish him in ministry.

The moment I asked, "Sir, do you have anything to do with the United States?" he immediately replied,

"Oh, no! I'm a true Nigerian. I love my nation. I'm not going anywhere."

Of course, from every natural perspective, he had no reason to relocate. He was working with Shell in the oil and gas industry and had risen through the ranks.

So I simply said,

"All right, sir."

I kept the word in my heart and said to myself,

"The day America comes into the picture, I will be waiting."

Four years later—not four months, but four years—my phone rang.

He said,

"Reverend Austin..."

I replied,

"Sir, please remind me."

He continued,

"My wife is here with me. Can you remind us what you were trying to tell me about the United States?"

I asked,

"What about it?"

He said,

"Just remind us."

So I reminded him.

I said,

"You told me you had no connection with the United States, but the Lord showed me that He was preparing to relocate you there, give you a job, and establish you in ministry."

He responded,

"As I'm speaking to you now, there is a job offer on my table."

I simply told him,

"Take it. It is the word of the Lord."

A Prophet Opens Unknown Corridors

A prophet does not speak merely to exalt people.

Neither does a prophet always speak simply to confirm what people already know.

A genuine prophetic word can introduce you into corridors you never imagined existed.

That is one of the distinguishing features of the prophetic office.

Prophecy Places Responsibility on the Receiver

Let us read **1 Timothy 1:18 (KJV)**:

"This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare."

One important truth about prophecy is this:

Every prophecy places responsibility upon the one who receives it.

When you receive a prophetic word, do not simply become excited and go to sleep.

Prophecy demands responsibility.

It calls you into partnership with God.

More importantly, prophecy provides one of the most potent templates for spiritual warfare.

Suppose a prophetic word is spoken over Reverend Tolu in this meeting. He is expected to leave this place and contend before God concerning that word, saying,

"Lord, You spoke to me concerning this matter."

That is how prophecy is engaged.

My Move to Lagos Was by Prophecy

Many years ago, while I was living in Abuja, I was on my way to pay my house rent. My wedding was approaching, so I was making the necessary preparations.

Then the Lord spoke to me.

He asked,

"Where are you going?"

I answered,

"To pay my rent."

He said,

"Turn back. I have not called you to live in Abuja. Move to Lagos."

That is why I am in Lagos today.

It was not because Lagos was attractive to me.

Before then, I had never lived in Lagos.

When I arrived and challenges arose, I reminded the Lord,

"I did not bring myself here. You brought me here."

What brought me to Lagos was prophecy.

At the time many people desired to do ministry in Lagos, I preferred quieter places. I enjoyed waking up at 8:15 a.m. for an 8:20 appointment and still arriving before time.

Lagos changed that.

To keep one appointment, you may spend four hours in traffic.

Naturally speaking, it was never my preferred destination.

Yet prophecy positioned me there.

That is why I fight with that prophetic word whenever difficulties arise.

Prophecy Is for Warfare, Not Entertainment

Every prophetic word that God announces over your life is intended for warfare.

Do not become excited simply because someone prophesied over you.

Do not make prophecy a social media highlight.

Today, people quickly upload prophetic moments online and say,

"Come and hear what was spoken over me."

But prophetic words are not given for trends.

They are given for warfare.

God expects you to take those words, return to Him, and contend until they become reality.

Amen.

Prophecy Can Distribute Spiritual Gifts

Now let us look at **1 Timothy 4:14 (KJV)**:

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

Notice something remarkable.

Prophecy can distribute spiritual gifts.

God can use prophetic ministry to impart grace, abilities, and spiritual endowments.

Yesterday, when Prophet Jesse ministered and identified intercessors in the congregation, there was a distribution taking place.

Many people do not yet possess certain spiritual gifts.

Yet Scripture encourages us to earnestly desire them.

When prophetic ministry is taking place and your heart reaches out in faith, God can impart those gifts.

Remember this:

Gifts are to be desired.

Fruit is to be cultivated.

Receiving a gift can happen in a moment.

Developing spiritual fruit is a lifelong process.

A true prophet must walk in both.

He manifests the gifts of the Spirit while displaying the fruit of the Spirit.

Never neglect the gift God has placed within you.

The Gift Must Be Stirred

Now let us read **2 Timothy 1:6 (KJV)**:

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

After this conference, there should be another conference in your personal life. It is what I call **the conference after the conference**.

That conference is where you begin to stir up what God has deposited in you. The strength of a gift does not lie merely in receiving it. Its strength is found in stirring it.

Recently, the Lord has repeatedly emphasized two words in my spirit.

The first is **potency**.

The second is **authorization for demonstration**.

Every believer has divine authorization to demonstrate the power of God.

However, that demonstration requires the continual stirring of the gift.

When you leave this gathering, continue to stir the gift of God within you.

The Power of Prophetic Impartation

The laying on of hands is one of the means through which God stirs and imparts spiritual grace.

A prophetic minister can place a demand upon heaven, and God responds by releasing gifts, grace, and divine enablement.

I remember looking at one of our pastors one day.

I said,

"I know you and your wife have concluded that you are done having children, but I see twins."

He immediately replied,

"Papa, God forbid!"

I simply smiled.

Unknown to me, his wife had already received a confirming dream.

Later they travelled to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary.

When they returned, he came to me and said,

"Papa, we just went for a medical check-up, and they said it is twins."

I replied,

"It is all right. It is the word of the Lord."

That is why you must never neglect what God has spoken.

Develop Your Gift Where You Are

Many believers have opportunities to demonstrate their gifts, yet they are waiting for larger platforms. That is the mistake.

In Lagos, we have prayer cells spread across the city. I tell our leaders, "You may never stand behind this pulpit to prophesy, but God has already given you a platform."

Perhaps only two people attend your meeting. Minister faithfully. Perhaps only one person comes.

Minister faithfully.

Sharpen your gift there. Do not despise small beginnings.

Faithfulness Before Great Crowds

One of the things I observed while serving under Apostle Arome Osayi was this: Crowds never determined what he preached. Many of the truths he later taught publicly were first taught to only four or six of us in a living room.

The message never changed because the audience became larger. He remained faithful to what God had given him. That is how prophetic ministry is developed.

You stir the gift.

You remain faithful.

You grow in consistency.

Stir Up the Prophet Within You

There is a stirring that must happen inside you.

Do not neglect what God has placed within you.

I remember ministering in Kano during a meeting hosted by Apostle Ben.

I arrived intending simply to preach.

But as the meeting progressed and the atmosphere shifted, my own spirit became stirred.

The right words came.

The right utterance came. The Spirit of God moved. Sometimes you must stir the atmosphere. At other times, you must stir the prophet within you. Stir up that Spirit which God has placed inside you.

Do not neglect the gift.

Be Faithful with the Gift You Already Have

Another reason many believers neglect their gifts is dissatisfaction.

They are constantly praying for gifts they do not yet possess while ignoring the ones God has already entrusted to them.

Instead of developing what they have received, they spend their time chasing what belongs to someone else.

The wiser path is to faithfully cultivate what God has already placed within you.

Gifts Are Designed to Complement One Another

Every healthy family and every healthy congregation should allow spiritual gifts to complement one another.

Gifts should never compete.

Neither should one gift intimidate another.

The body of Christ functions best when every grace operates in harmony.

Three Dimensions of Prophecy

So far we have identified two dimensions of prophecy:

- Prophecy through the gift of the Spirit.
- Prophecy through the office of the prophet.

There is also a third dimension:

Prophecy by grace through faith.

Romans 12:6 says:

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith." —

Romans 12:6 (KJV)

This dimension is available to every believer.

It functions according to the measure of grace and faith God has given.

Unlike the spontaneous gift of prophecy, this often flows from truths God has already deposited in your spirit through diligent study and fellowship with Him.

As you meditate on Scripture, the Holy Spirit breathes upon those truths, enabling you to speak prophetically to God's people with faith and conviction.

There are prophets, and there are prophets.

Prophet Jesse Jangfa often says he likes to fight in the spirit.

As for me, I do not even know what I like. I only know that I am a deliverer. If you understand what it means to be a deliverer, then you know that sometimes a deliverer naturally wants to confront things physically.

I remember one occasion when Apostle said to me,

"Today, do as the occasion demands."

That instruction came at a very interesting time.

I had a neighbour who had continually troubled me. At the same time, I had made a promise to my father-in-law that no matter what this man did to me, I would never respond with my own words.

I held firmly to that promise.

However, I also knew I could never violate an instruction from my spiritual father. Then one day the man crossed the line. He pushed my mother. When Apostle heard what had happened, he said,

"This time, do as the occasion demands."

I immediately went downstairs and shouted, "Come outside! Today I'm going to deal with you."

The reason Apostle gave that instruction was because the man had assaulted my mother. When I got downstairs, I realized I had better walk away because if I remained there, I might actually strike him. Later I narrated everything to Apostle.

He smiled and reminded me, "I told you to do as the occasion demanded."

Understanding Prophecy by the Measure of Faith

Now let me make this practical. Perhaps someone shares something during Bible study. As you listen, suddenly you realize, "The Lord had already spoken this to me while I was studying."

At that point, you are about to prophesy according to the proportion of faith that has risen within your spirit. This kind of prophecy does not function without faith.

The gift of prophecy is different. When the gift of prophecy comes upon you, faith is not what initiates it. God simply imparts His utterance.

However, prophecy by grace through faith begins with a word that God has already deposited in your heart. The Holy Spirit quickens that word, you meditate upon it, and eventually communicate it.

That is the distinction.

During the operation of the gift of prophecy, you have no opportunity to choose your words.

God simply takes over your vocal cords.

You begin speaking exactly as He gives utterance:

"I am with you."

"I am the Lord your God."

"I chose you before the foundation of the world."

Those words are not selected by you.

They are spoken directly by God through you.

But prophecy according to the measure of faith is different.

Here, you prayerfully search for the most appropriate words to communicate what God has already impressed upon your heart.

The gift of prophecy is instantaneous.

Prophecy by grace through faith is often developed over time.

It is available to every believer.

This is why I am presenting this as a discourse rather than merely preaching.

Waiting for the Right Utterance

Sometimes God gives a revelation long before He provides the proper language to communicate it.

I remember when Papa came to my house one day.

He looked at me and said,

"I have something to tell you, but you are not ready."

Those words troubled me for months.

Every time I saw him, I would ask,

"Sir..."

He would simply reply,

"You are not ready."

What I did not understand was that he himself was waiting for the right utterance.

He wanted to communicate God's mind without injuring me or creating unnecessary suspicion.

Then one day he called me and simply said,

"No flow."

At first, I had no idea what those words meant.

Even my wife and I wondered what he was referring to.

At that time, there was nothing happening around me that could explain the statement.

Later I discovered that "No flow" was the language God had given him to communicate a vision He had already shown him concerning my life.

He was not accusing me.

He was not suspecting me.

He was carefully choosing words that would preserve my heart while still delivering God's warning.

That is one characteristic of prophecy by grace through faith.

Once it reaches the heart of the recipient, it remains there.

You cannot shake it off.

It becomes engraved upon your heart.

When the Prophetic Word Became Clear

Because of those two simple words—"No flow"—I remained spiritually alert.

Eventually, a young lady who was living in my house began displaying unusual familiarity.

One day she accompanied my wife to the market.

As they were shopping, she kept saying,

"No, your husband doesn't like this."

"He prefers this colour."

"This is what he likes."

Immediately, something became obvious.

Other women around us also began noticing the same pattern.

One night my wife woke me from sleep and asked,

"Do you like this girl?"

I became offended.

I said,

"What are you talking about? We have been married all these years. You know my past. Before marrying you, I deliberately ended every inappropriate relationship. I have been transparent with you."

She replied,

"She has to leave this house."

I answered,

"No. We are Kingdom people. Why would you suspect me?"

She calmly responded,

"You are giving me room to suspect."

We had a serious discussion that night.

Then, the next morning, those words Papa had spoken months earlier came flooding back into my heart:

"No flow."

Immediately I understood.

That prophetic warning had prepared me long before the situation unfolded.

I called the young lady and said,

"Your time here is over. You need to leave today."

Only after she left did several women in the church tell me they had also been uncomfortable with the situation, although nothing inappropriate had actually occurred.

That experience taught me how prophecy by grace through faith operates.

Sometimes it comes as a quiet impression that requires prayer, Scripture, and patient discernment before its meaning becomes clear.

Many of the prophetic words released in meetings flow from this dimension of prophecy.

Faith receives them, and faith also sustains them until they come to pass.

Prophetic Pitfall Number One: Playing God

Now let us consider some prophetic pitfalls that must be avoided.

The first is this:

The tendency for the prophet to play God in the lives of people.

This is one of the greatest dangers in prophetic ministry.

Always remember that God is jealous over His people.

Never assume the place that belongs to Him.

Do not begin controlling every decision people make simply because you are a prophet.

Some ministers begin asking people:

"Who told you to travel?"

"Why did you buy that car?"

"Why did you purchase this house without consulting me?"

Such behaviour does not produce mature sons.

It produces slaves.

People naturally trust genuine prophetic ministry.

That is precisely why this temptation is so dangerous.

I have already shared the testimony of the man who sought my counsel concerning nearly one billion naira.

Had I demanded two hundred million, he probably would have given it to me without hesitation because he had witnessed genuine prophetic manifestations in my ministry.

That is why every prophet must guard his heart.

The moment people move from worshipping God to worshipping the prophet, danger has begun.

Hero worship destroys prophetic ministry.

In fact, one reason I often prefer to introduce myself simply as **Reverend Austin** rather than emphasizing the title *Prophet* is because of the unhealthy admiration that sometimes follows the prophetic office.

Prophetic Pitfall Number Two: The Quest for Fame

The second pitfall is **the pursuit of fame**. Every generation faces its own unique temptations. Our generation happens to wrestle with social media. Some ministers spend enormous resources promoting and rebranding themselves. Their greatest desire is simply to become known. Today, someone can set up a ring light, begin recording, and say,

"Last night I had a vision..."

Before even sharing anything, they invite everyone to pray in tongues while carefully positioning themselves before the camera. Yet often, what they received was never intended for public consumption. I learned this lesson personally.

In 2019, after preaching a message titled "**Understanding Transition**," I returned to my hotel room, knelt in prayer, and the Lord sharply rebuked me.

He asked,

"Who told you to preach that message?"

I replied,

"Lord, You gave it to me."

He said,

"I gave it to you, but it was not for the public. That message was for you."

That encounter changed my ministry.

Since then, there have been many occasions when the Lord has given me ten or fifteen sermon topics.

I develop them privately.

Years later, when invitations come, I discover that those prepared messages are exactly what those meetings require.

That experience taught me an important lesson. A prepared vessel is far more valuable than a prepared message. God is never in a hurry to make you famous. Many things He appears to hide from you are actually being hidden **for you** until His appointed time.

Character must mature before visibility arrives.

Character Stabilizes the Anointing

Never forget this truth: **Character stabilizes the anointing.**

Displaying a gift may require only a single opportunity. Developing godly character requires an entire lifetime. Anyone can demonstrate a gift in a moment. Character, however, is formed through years of obedience, humility, correction, and faithfulness.

The anointing is sustained by character.

Prophetic Pitfall Number Three: Greed

Another major prophetic pitfall is **greed**. We see this clearly in the life of Balaam.

The desire for personal gain has destroyed many prophetic ministries. God empowers His servants so that He may speak through them to His people. The prophet exists to communicate God's burden—not to pursue personal enrichment.

There is an important distinction between the ministry of the priest and the ministry of the prophet. The priest carries the burdens of the people before God.

The prophet carries the burden of the Lord to the people.

That is why, in the Old Testament, the high priest wore garments bearing the names of the tribes of Israel upon his shoulders and breastplate.

The prophet, however, bore the message of God's heart.

His responsibility was to faithfully deliver heaven's burden to the earth.

When Reverend Tolu ministered earlier, he was not merely preaching.

He was placing the burden of the Lord upon God's people concerning their territories and their responsibility within them.

The Way, Error, and Doctrine of Balaam

The tragedy of Balaam did not begin with outright rebellion. It began with attraction. Although God instructed Balaam not to go, the rewards offered by Balak continually pulled at his heart. That is always how compromise begins.

First comes **the way of Balaam**.

If unchecked, it develops into **the error of Balaam**. Eventually, error becomes so deeply rooted that it forms **the doctrine of Balaam**.

What began as a temptation eventually becomes a lifestyle. That progression must be resisted from the very beginning.

Never Commercialize the Prophetic

Only two weeks ago, a young woman sent me screenshots involving one of our own sons in Lagos.

He had told her,

"I need to inquire of the Lord on your behalf, but first you need to sow a seed. The seed will prepare the atmosphere for inquiry."

When I read those messages, I was deeply grieved.

I called him to my office.

Instead of immediately rebuking him, I asked gently,

"Where did you learn this?"

Then I looked at him and said,

"I am your father. Have you ever seen me prophesy because of money?"

God has taken me into places where I have seen enormous wealth.

I have stood before people who could have given me large sums of money or expensive cars with a single prophetic word.

Yet that has never been the motivation of prophetic ministry.

The voice of the prophet must never become merchandise.

The lady who went with me kept preparing me. She said, "Bro, when we get there, you need to prophesy because the man is very rich."

I had come from Sokoto—a village boy. It was the first time I had ever seen luxury cars parked under air-conditioned garages. The garage stretched from one end to the other. There were Jaguars, Rolls-Royces, and many other exotic cars.

She kept saying, "When you get there, just prophesy. There will be rewards."

I remained quiet.

The moment I stepped into the house, I began to see blood. With every step I took, I saw blood until they led me to the woman of the house.

When I looked at her, her husband was standing there. I looked directly at him and said,

"Woman, the person troubling you knows himself."

I was looking at the husband because he was the one. He had involved her in blood money.

Then Jesus said to me, “Say no more. Pray.”

I replied inwardly, “If I pray, the person will die.”

I kept looking at the man, but I left without saying anything else.

Young men, hear me: **your voice can be bought.**

May God anoint you as a prophet to the nations, but make sure every trace of greed is killed before you step into ministry.

This is a generation that enjoys the liberality of people online. Many people want to buy a generation.

The day the money stops coming, many begin calling for public fasts and prayer campaigns—seventy days today, one hundred days tomorrow.

If you are truly doing it for the Lord, then stop announcing it on social media.

Complete the seventy days before God alone. Don't finish three days, take a break, and return online asking for attention. What exactly are you looking for?

Remember Gehazi.

Was it time to receive money?

The Scripture says:

“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Whatever you do not have is because you do not yet need it.

Learn to accomplish the impossible with what is presently available.

Some of you are crying for a car today, but that car could become your destruction.

Others are desperate for marriage, yet God knows there are areas of your character that still require training.

Perhaps you are quick-tempered. God may keep you single for a season so that He can teach you how to honor and speak gently to a woman.

Imagine standing before your wife saying,

“Is that how you talk to me? Do you know I speak to governors?”

Then the Lord reminds you,

“Do you know the people she also speaks to in her office?”

May God continually interrupt our pride.

Money can buy your voice.

When God brings you to a season where people begin paying for your clothes, your shoes, and even your meals, you are standing in a very dangerous place.

Before you even mention a need, someone has already transferred the money into your account.

That is a dangerous season.

Greed.

I will not spend much time talking about pride because we all know that **pride goes before destruction.**

The last pitfall I want to mention before I close is one that is greatly ravaging Nigeria.

When I mention women, let me put it in context.

The Bible says,

“He that findeth a wife findeth a good thing...”

So I am not speaking about wives.

I am referring to the strange woman described throughout the book of Proverbs.

She watches until her husband travels.

Then she approaches a young, gifted prophet and says,

“My husband is away.”

She begins speaking the language of seduction.

“I understand romance.”

“I know what you like.”

“You are handsome.”

“You have a great future.”

“My bed is prepared.”

“Come with me.”

By the way of the immoral woman, a man loses his honor.

One reason there is such a lack of prophetic potency today is because of this issue.

Some claim to be prophets while openly justifying sexual sin.

Others mount the altar carrying an image that resembles gangsters more than servants of God.

Many sleep with women while still ministering publicly.

Sometimes people wonder why lust continues troubling them despite their desire to remain pure.

Be careful whose voice is speaking into your life.

If the voice leading you is filled with adultery, fornication, and impurity, it will eventually influence you.

A young man once visited his spiritual father.

He unexpectedly saw his mentor in sexual immorality with a woman.

He quietly left.

Later, that same leader deliberately arranged for women to tempt the young man until he eventually fell into sin.

While he was in the act, the leader appeared and said,

“Now we are even.”

His own sin was hidden, but now the young man's failure had become public.

The young man eventually came to some of us in deep pain.

There are situations today where it is actually safer to pray alone than to join yourself to people whose lives contradict the gospel.

When we speak against these issues, it is not because we hate anyone.

It is because of the painful realities we have witnessed.

When you hear Apostle Arome Osayi or other leaders address these matters, understand that they are not speaking from hatred.

They are speaking from firsthand evidence.

There are things we have seen that many people have not.

Evidence settles arguments.

You may debate all you want, but evidence remains evidence.

I once ministered deliverance to a young woman who had been abused from the age of thirteen until she was twenty-six.

She told me,

“Watch this man carefully. He is about to give a word of knowledge.”

Before he spoke publicly, she repeated his words exactly.

When I asked how she knew, she said,

“The walls speak to me.”

I asked,

“How did this begin?”

She replied,

“The first time the man slept with me, nothing happened. The second time, I began hearing his thoughts through the walls.”

Her deliverance lasted three and a half years.

When she was finally free, I told her,

“Leave this city.”

At that time, the man was looking for her.

So when we stand to address these matters, it is not because we hate anyone.

Body of Christ in Nigeria, hear me:

Many people have been trapped by prophetic pitfalls.

Some who were once genuine prophets became greedy.

Instead of renewing their strength in God, they sought counterfeit empowerment through sexual immorality.

To every person who believes sleeping with a prophet is a spiritual privilege—you are terribly deceived.

How can someone claiming to represent God tell you to sleep with him?

Recently, one minister was about to commit immorality with a woman.

She reminded him,

“Sir, you are scheduled to minister in a few hours.”

He replied,

“Watch me. I am a mystery. I am a David.”

No, sir.

That is not David.

David's life shows us both the terrible consequences of sin and the mercy of God—not a license to continue in immorality.

When David grew old, those who knew his past brought a young woman to care for him, believing it would revive him.

Yet the Scriptures make it clear that **he did not know her sexually**.

That is not an excuse for sin.

May the Lord grant us understanding.

The young woman came close to David and lay beside him.

But David's response, in essence, was:

"Young lady, if only you knew what my past failure cost me."

I have a friend here—Jonathan Oraka. Before he got married, whenever he was tempted sexually, he would run.

Why?

Because after one encounter with sexual immorality as a young Christian, the moment he got up from that act, he heard the words of Scripture echo in his heart:

"...and he knew not that the Spirit of the Lord had departed from him."

As those words struck him, overwhelming conviction came upon him. It was such a terrifying encounter with God that it permanently altered his attitude toward sexual sin.

Ora, where are you?

Stand up.

I'm your pastor.

Stand up.

That's him right there.

Later, when he entered another relationship, the lady said,

"Before we marry, I want to be sure everything is working."

He replied,

"Nothing on earth will make me do that."

He had already tasted the severe conviction of the Holy Spirit. He never wanted to return to that place again.

Many prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and ministers within the fivefold ministry behave carelessly because they have not encountered God in a way that produces deep, lasting reverence.

As I said, this morning is a discussion.

Guard yourselves.

Exercise self-control.

Some people say,

"Pastor, I fell."

What do you mean you "fell"?

You unbuckled your belt.

You unbuttoned your trousers.

You unzipped them.

You removed your clothing.

Then afterward you say,

"I fell."

No.

Those were deliberate choices.

I understand that some of you are genuinely battling temptation, and I say these things to help you confront the reality of the struggle.

Sexual immorality is one of the major reasons we are not seeing the level of prophetic potency God desires in His Church.

It is a serious prophetic pitfall.

I have seventeen pitfalls I could discuss, but I will stop here.

Perhaps someone here is saying,

"Lord, I want to be like Reverend Gideon Odoma."

Or,

"I want to be like Dr. Femi..."

Or perhaps you came saying,

"I am not really here to see Reverend Austin. I want an impartation from Pastor."

Mama reminded us yesterday that many people desire the impartation of a journey that took forty years to build—all in a single day.

It does not work that way.

It takes decades for the prophetic call to mature.

Forget how many prophecies you have given that came to pass.

That is not God's primary concern.

God is looking for a man He can establish in His purpose—a man who will speak God's Word, in God's timing, according to God's will.

That kind of formation takes time.

At minimum, it takes about twenty years.

I was ordained as a prophet by Bishop Francis in the year 2000.

Today, that is over twenty-five years.

And Papa later confirmed that same grace upon my life here.

Over these years, I have seen extraordinary prophetic manifestations.

I have also faced temptation.

I have seen the allure of women.

I have seen the temptation of money.

I have seen every kind of gift and honor that ministry can attract.

People have given me expensive gifts.

I have worn suits worth thousands of dollars.

In fact, when one man insisted on buying me several expensive suits, I begged him,

"Please, just give me the money instead. I'm building."

He refused and bought the suits anyway.

These are the very things many people are desperately chasing.

But if those things become your pursuit, they can become your downfall.

So I leave you with this question:

Do you want to become a prophet full of pitfalls?

Or do you want to become a prophet full of potency?

The choice is yours.

God bless you.



About the Speaker

Rev. Austin Ukpore is the Resident Pastor (Point Man) of **Remnant Christian Network (RCN), Lagos**. Raised in the northern city of Sokoto, Nigeria, he was shaped by the fervent evangelistic culture of Northern Christianity and was ordained as a pastor in 2001. Over the years, he has witnessed God's faithfulness through a ministry marked by prophetic teaching, apostolic grace, fervent intercession, and a deep passion for revival.

As an itinerant preacher, Rev. Austin carries the message of the Gospel across nations, with a burden to see believers mature into the fullness of Christ and emerge as Kingdom-minded leaders who influence every sphere of society, including government, business, and the corporate world.

Rev. Austin is happily married to **Pastor Grace Ukpore**, and they are blessed with three children. Together, they reside in Lagos, Nigeria, where they continue to serve the Body of Christ with unwavering commitment.

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