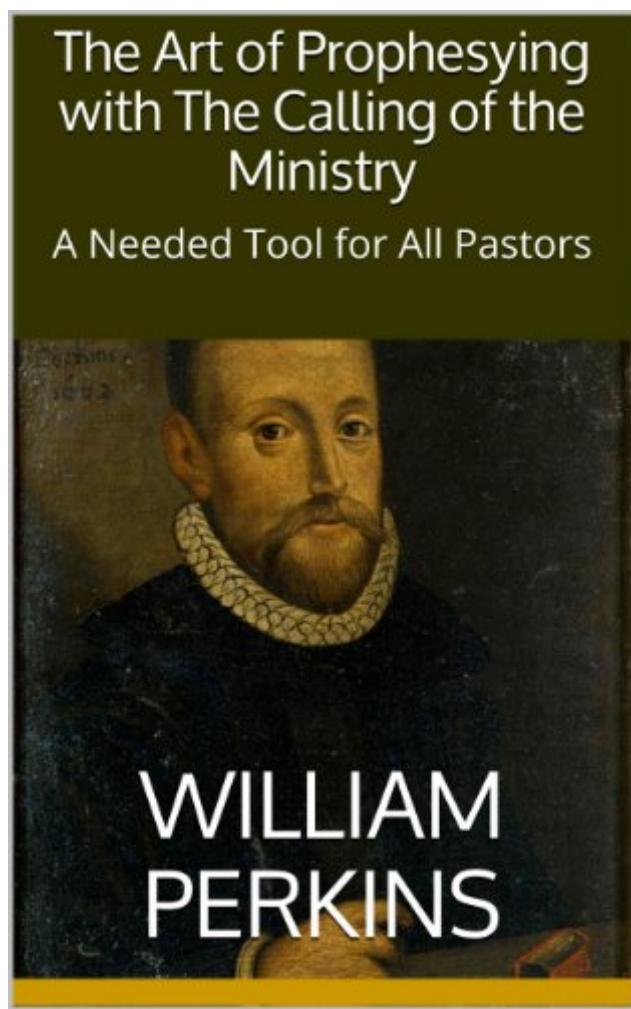


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# The Art Of Prophesying With The Calling Of The Ministry: A Needed Tool For All Pastors



## Synopsis

William Perkins was a clergyman and Cambridge theologian who was one of the foremost leaders of the Puritan movement in the Church of England. Perkins was born to Thomas and Anna Perkins at Marston Jabbett in the parish of Bulkington, Warwickshire, England in 1558, the year in which the Protestant Elizabeth I succeeded her Catholic sister Mary as Queen of England. Perkins lived his entire life under Elizabeth I, dying one year before the Virgin Queen's own death in 1603. Perkins' relationship with Elizabeth was ambiguous: on the one hand, she was Good Queen Bess, the monarch under whom England finally and firmly became a Protestant nation; on the other hand, Perkins and the other members of the Puritan movement were frustrated that the Elizabethan settlement had not gone far enough and pushed for further Reformation. Influence Although relatively unknown to modern Christians, Perkins has had an influence that is felt by Christians all around the world, and was widely regarded in the Elizabethan Church. In addition, Perkins' views on double predestination made him a major target of Jacobus Arminius, the Dutch Reformed clergyman who opposed the doctrine of predestination. He also was influential in the theological development of the American puritan philosopher and theologian Jonathan Edwards. In addition, some consider the hermeneutics of Perkins to be a model that ought to be emulated. In his lifetime, Perkins attained enormous popularity, with sales of his works eventually surpassing even Calvin's. When he died, his writings were selling more copies than those of many of the most famous of the Reformers combined. From his position at Cambridge, Perkins was able to influence a whole generation of English churchmen. His pupils include: William Ames, Puritan who eventually left England to become professor of theology at Franeker; John Robinson, the founder of Congregationalism in Leiden and pastor of the group which went on to found the Plymouth Colony; Thomas Goodwin; Paul Baynes; Samuel Ward, master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Phineas Fletcher, a poet; Thomas Draxe; Thomas Taylor; James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh; James Montagu, master of Sidney Sussex and later bishop of Winchester; Richard Sibbes. In 1602, Perkins suffered from "the stone". After several weeks of suffering, he died at age 44. James Montagu preached his funeral sermon, taking as his text Joshua 1:2, "Moses my servant is dead." He was buried in St. Andrew's, the church which he had pastored for eighteen years.

SOME OF WILLIAM PERKIN'S QUOTES:

God gives some "benefits" to all mankind, even the non-elect. This is the idea of common grace. The covenant of grace is conditional, because we must believe to gain eternal life, i.e. faith may be called a condition. Christ is "offered" through the Gospel to all those that hear it proclaimed, even to the non-elect. The means of salvation, which must include Christ's sacrifice, is "offered" to all and is "sufficient to save all mankind." There are distinctions in God's will,

such that he can be said to both will and not will the same thing in different respects. God willed the "conversion" of all of Jerusalem, which included the non-elect Jews. The gospel is God's "merciful visitation" to all that are exposed to it. Some "set the ministry of the gospel at nought."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My version has both "The Art Of Prophesying" and "The Calling Of The Ministry". It should be noted here that by "prophesy" it means preaching the Word of God faithfully (which is technically the biblical definition of the word). This is one of my first excursions into Puritan preachers and it's interesting how clear they teach (at least Perkins does). Perkins takes time to address both the message, the messenger, and the hearers of the message. He has a high view of Scripture and the way Perkins presents his lesson, it takes an exegetical approach rather than the unfruitful eisegetical approach. A quick read, that really keeps you on the track of righteousness in learning and preaching. Final Grade - A

This book was brief, well outlined and proceeded logically from point to point, instructing the junior pastor in what would be needed for him to bring himself to maturity, one step at a time. It is readable in a couple of hours and may be used as an overview when digging into one's own expanded notes is impractical. While this book will not disappoint the deacon or lay pastor required only to preach or pray publicly from time to time, it may not carry all of the depth required in the way of axioms leading to fully mature exposition. Basic rules for interpretation are listed. Detailed suggestions that even include appropriate gesticulation are also written. Ultimately though like so many new skills, one can only learn so much by reading a text. The mature expositor can only become proficient by going to the newest street corner, Bible study or prayer meeting with his prepared text and practice the "art of prophesying.' May God bless the efforts of all who read this book, even if they are reading it like me in order to assure that I may properly shepherd my family each morning.

This is a book about how to preach faithful sermons through scripture and how to read scripture as it was written. It has some dry moments, but gives great clarity on the meaning of scripture and how to preach it for the benefit of the congregation.

Lots of great suggestions, and stirring items that help a preacher become a Pastor.

William Perkins is arguably the giant of Puritanism and understanding him is crucial to understanding that enormously influential movement. This very readable book is typical Perkins: practical, devout, and Biblical. It has been excellently revised for a modern readership. I might have preferred a bit more of that early seventeenth century flavor to be retained but I'm a doctoral student in Puritanism. Even the lay reader will find it easy going. Perkins (1560-1602) wrote this book about the ministry. It contains insights about what the church is to do and be drawn especially from Job and a few other unlikely places. Perkins especially focuses on the need for Biblical practice in all of the Church's life. This book should be required reading in all seminaries and Bible colleges. It makes a great gift to any pastor or missionary. And its good for any serious Christian. Highly recommended

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Nice reading, would buy again.

This wonderful book gives encouragement and challenge to those who would seek to be ministers in the Body of Christ. Not only is it practically helpful, but it is also convicting in regards to the character required for such ministry. I will refer to this book often.

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