



# Faith & Flourishing in Politics

*Speak Prophetically / Amos 5:21-24*

Rev. Jonathan M. Romig - Fall 2021



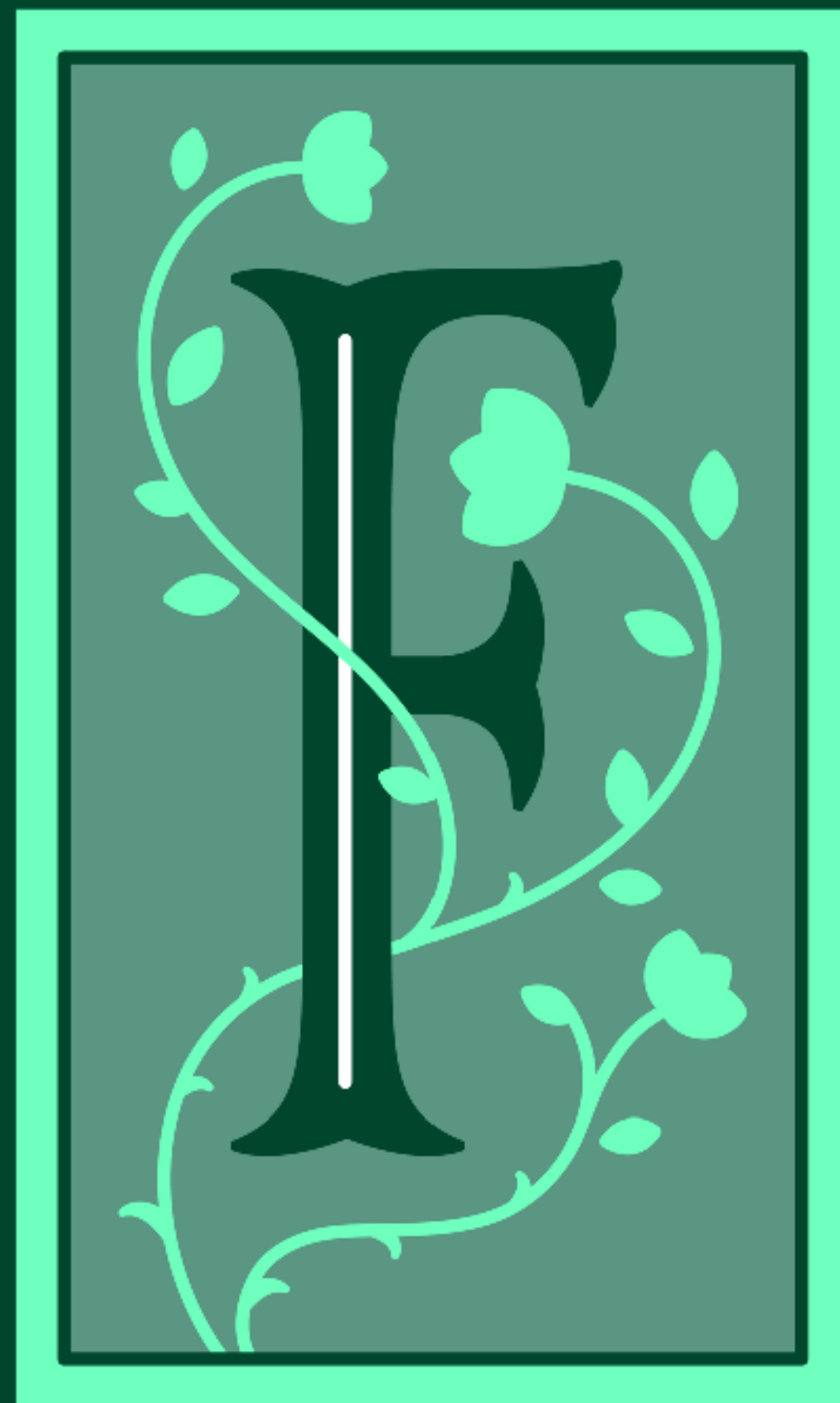
# Speak Prophetically







Photo via National Catholic Register: <https://www.ncregister.com/news/how-mother-teresa-challenged-hillary-clinton-on-abortion>



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“Faithful Presence” → “Faithful Prophetic Presence”



To speak prophetically is to  
speak truth to power.



To speak prophetically is to speak truth to power.

**James 4:17** (ESV)

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.





[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I\\_Have\\_a\\_Dream#/media/File:Martin\\_Luther\\_King\\_-\\_March\\_on\\_Washington.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Have_a_Dream#/media/File:Martin_Luther_King_-_March_on_Washington.jpg)  
Photo above from "I Have a Dream" speech. Quote below from *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*.

“... the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people.”  
- Martin Luther King, Jr.



To speak prophetically is to speak truth to power.

**Amos 5:24 (ASV)**

“But let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.”





To speak prophetically is to speak truth to power.

**Amos 7:12-13 (ESV)**

And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, 13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”



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### **Amos 7:12-13 (ESV)**

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**Civil religion** — Religion/state enmesh, which leads to a watered-down faith and injustices.



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### **Amos 7:14-15 (ESV)**

Amos answered and said to Amaziah, “I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. 15 But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’



To speak prophetically is to speak truth to power with power.

**James 1:19-20 (ESV)**

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.





To speak prophetically is to speak truth to power with power.

“The problem with carnal anger and outrage is that it’s one of the easiest sins to commit while convincing oneself that one is being faithful. . . . Rage is no sign of authority, prophetic or otherwise.” – *Onward* by Russell Moore



We speak prophetically out of love for our neighbor.



We speak prophetically out of love  
for our neighbor.

**Amos 2:6-7** (ESV)

Thus says the Lord:

“For three transgressions of Israel,  
and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,  
because they sell the righteous for silver,  
and the needy for a pair of sandals—  
those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth  
and turn aside the way of the afflicted;  
a man and his father go in to the same girl,  
so that my holy name is profaned;



We speak prophetically out of love  
for our neighbor.

**Amos 4:1 (ESV)**

“Hear this word, you cows of Bashan,  
who are on the mountain of Samaria,  
who oppress the poor, who crush the needy,  
who say to your husbands, ‘Bring, that we may drink!’”



We speak prophetically out of love  
for our neighbor.

**Amos 5:10-11** (ESV)

They hate him who reproves in the gate,  
and they abhor him who speaks the truth.  
Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and you exact taxes of grain from him,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not dwell in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.



# We speak prophetically out of love for our neighbor.

## **Amos 5:21-24 (ESV)**

“I hate, I despise your feasts,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,

I will not look upon them.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;

to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.



We speak prophetically out of love  
for our neighbor.

**Amos 9:11-12 (ESV)**

“In that day I will raise up  
the booth of David that is fallen  
and repair its breaches,  
and raise up its ruins  
and rebuild it as in the days of old,  
that they may possess the remnant of Edom  
and all the nations who are called by my name,”  
declares the Lord who does this.



Prophetic power comes at the  
cost of self-sacrificial love.



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