

SEEC Magazine

A PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 5

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IN-THE-MEAN-TIME-PROPHECY

PROPHECY

Desolation of
Devalued Leadership
Jim Hodges

**STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
COMFORT**

The Best is
Yet to Come
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Dreams & Visions
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What is the Church
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**THIS IS NOT END-TIME PROPHECY
THIS IS IN-THE-MEAN-TIME-PROPHECY**

**STRENGTHEN
ENCOURAGE
EQUIP
CHURCH
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1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12

**PROPHETIC CHARACTERISTICS
AND GUIDELINES**

Marty Gabler

Prophesying
and Ministry
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"God is my King from of old, Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth" Ps. 74:12



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ON THE COVER:

Marty's latest book release *Prophesy—
Strengthen Encourage Comfort* has been
revised and now has more chapter
content.
It is now available for 10.00 + 2.00 s/h.



SEEC Magazine is published by SEEC Ministries International. SEEC stands for Strengthen, Encourage, Equip Church Ministries—1Co 14:3; Eph 4:12. This is our mission statement and SEEC Ministries International is attempting to accomplish that mission through ministry in local churches, around the globe, in conferences, seminars, through publishing, audio and video. For a catalog listing of the CDs and books available by Marty and Kathy Gabler, send us an e-mail at: mail@seecministries.org or write us at our PO Box.

SEEC Magazine is a bi-monthly publication. It is for the purpose of presenting teaching on the subjects of the Kingdom of God, prophecy, five-fold ministry, dreams and visions, and intercession. Though each of these subjects may not be covered in each issue, they will be covered through the course of the year's publications.

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Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

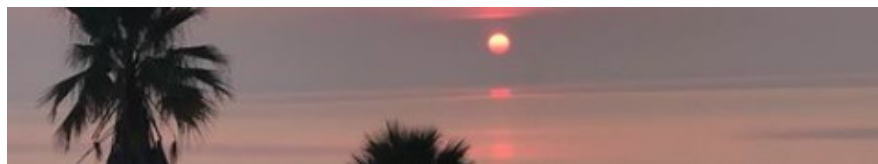
Thank you for sowing into SEEC Ministries International.



1. When considering a dream or vision, the goal is communication. Understanding the way you dream and the language that may be unique to your dreams, is equipping for life. This “understanding” is a major part of “having an ear to hear”.

You may already understand most of your dreams and already know when they are from God or for a God-purpose, so your only challenge may be figuring out how to follow up or walk them out in real life.

Perhaps you have experienced how the Holy Spirit sometimes gives you a word of wisdom which reveals a dream’s message, meaning and purpose all at once. It is like a light suddenly coming on or subtitles coming across the scenes. I love it when God does that, as was the case recently. On a three-way call with intercessors, a lady told her dream about a friend who had just been notified he had an aggressive cancer. The dreamer was surprised because her friend didn’t even look sick. In fact he looked in the peak of health and fitness. As she told the dream, I heard, “It is not physical cancer. It is bitterness that is targeting him, but has not successfully overtaken him.” God revealed an assignment and a call to intercession through word of wisdom revealed by the Spirit.



However, it is just as fulfilling to get to the message, meaning and purpose through the process of prayerfully searching them out. We can sit at the Lord's feet and lean against His knee and ponder the pieces of a dream. Sometimes we don't even have to completely dismantle the dream to get the gist of it, but if it does require more effort, then we research the Bible and reference books and friends until the concepts connect and open our understanding. God created dreams and visions to communicate and He will certainly help us get to understanding.

2. When considering a dream, knowing whether a dream is **from God or not** may help bring clarity. Sometimes we figure out in hind sight that a dream was from God, but it is still a valuable insight for future reference. If a dream is from God, it is a God-to-Man communication, revelation, realization or confirmation coming down to us. If a dream is a **self-to-self** communication it is coming up from our heart or core to get information and conditions up into our mind-awareness.

Self-to-Self dreams can clean house by flashing scenes from our life into dreams so we can gather and toss "thought-clutter" and have a clean start the next day. Scientists and doctors have proven these kind of dreams are a nightly reset that de-clutters the mind and de-stresses the mind. Since stress is the starting point for many, if not most health issues, the ability to dream self-to-self is healthy. The Hebrew word for dream is *chalam* (*khay lem*), which means to strengthen or restore to health or facilitate recovery. Any way you look at it, dreaming is a blessing from the Lord. Even nightmares or upsetting dreams or bizarre dreams can be a positive because they bring things stored in our core closet out to the living room where we can be aware of them and we can confront them for relief or resolve.

Jer 17:9, says the heart is a puzzle no one can figure out, but some of those puzzle pieces can show up in our dreams. Memories you have never remembered before can suddenly be a dream video, and that can be the puzzle piece that solves a troubling in your heart-thinking. Our heart-thinking is crucial because it affects all our life and all our relationships, Pro 23:7, *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.* Therefore, self-to-self dreams are very important because the scripts of those dreams reveal what is affecting or influencing our thoughts and emotions and senses and moods and attitudes. Again, it is key to remember that in these dreams it is not God doing the talking, but us.

A good friend of mine had a strange dream and could not stop thinking about it. She said, "I've been asking the Lord what He's saying, but I don't have an interpretation." In her dream she was in a hospital maternity

ward. There was an infant she did not know but she felt concern and responsibility for the baby. When she went to change the baby's diaper, she realized this baby was pregnant and about to give birth. She frantically sought out help but the nurse was too busy with other patients. She woke up with a sense of frantic concern and urgency that lingered for days and she desperately sought the Lord to understand what He was saying.

Extreme and strange dreams sometimes seem so far out of our control that it is easy to conclude they are not natural and therefore must be SUPER-natural in source. We then assume God is the one that is saying something but don't realize His silence is saying something, "It is not me talking." The frustration gets thicker because we cannot imagine how such a strange dream experience could come up from within us! It is a good thing at this point to look at the dream again and dissect it.

3. When considering a dream or vision, watch for symbolism. Symbolism is an object, person or action or event that represents something other than itself. A pregnant baby is obviously symbolic. If cats are talking or dogs are driving your car, you're "not in Kansas anymore" and you're not talking "literal." Thankfully, we do not have to be experts on symbolism to discover what something symbolizes. We can find out what a symbol represents through prayerfully brainstorming it or researching it until we find an option that bears witness concerning the dream. (By the way, when you do get understanding about a symbol, record it. It is likely to become part of your dream language or dream vocabulary and it will usually have the same significance in future dreams.)

What does a baby symbolize? To it's care-giver, a baby represents a new beginning, new potential, new responsibility, etc. The baby itself symbolizes being vulnerable, unequipped, immature, inexperienced, unskilled, innocent, ignorant, etc.

4. When considering a dream or vision, note the setting. See if it is a reference to an event, season, relationship, pattern, timing, etc. For example, if the setting is Grandma's house, the dream message is likely dealing with family history or something from your childhood. The setting of this lady's dream was a time and place of birthing or a time and place of new responsibility, a new beginning and a new focus. That was a clue to understanding the reason for this dream, especially since her baby, (literally her youngest daughter), was in a time and place of just such new responsibility.

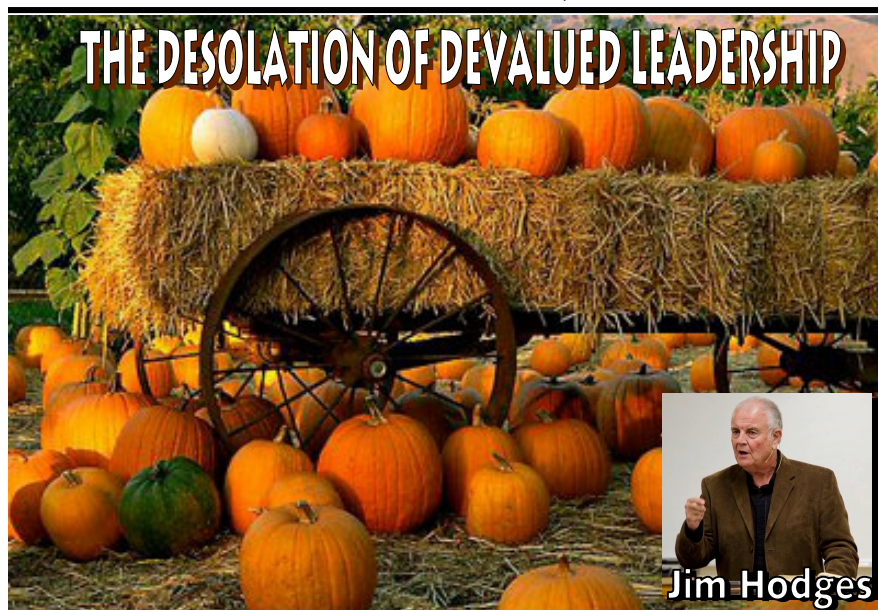
5. When considering a dream or vision, watch for literal aspects among the symbolism.

During the dream, this dreamer was anxious about who could help and who would be responsible for the outcome of this situation. She was not able or even

skilled to help with this medical situation. That detail indicated this was not God commissioning her nor a God-to-Man communication with instructions for her to hurry and handle her daughter's challenge in real life. This dream was from within her and revealed her concerns regarding her baby having a baby.

Her daughter had just been appointed as a new pastor. The anxiousness was because of the many factors a baby implies. She was worried that her daughter may lack experience or ability or maturity or experience to handle what she was beginning. Her dream brought the anxiousness that was already within her up into her awareness like a flood. That is why she woke up feeling frantic with a sense of urgency. When the dream revealed her inner fretting, that she had not realized, she knew she must choose to trust God instead of herself and come to relief and resolve through effectual prayer for her baby girl.

(This article is from Kathy's message at DVP2017. CDs are available for 5.00 each plus 2.00 s/h. Her book The Heart of Dreams is also available.)



Judges 9:5-15, *Then he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself. All the men of Shechem and all Beth-millo assembled together, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar which was in Shechem. Now when they told Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted his voice and called out. Thus he said to them, "Listen to me, O men of Shechem, that God may listen to you. "Once the trees went forth to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us!' "But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my fatness with which God*

and men are honored, and go to wave over the trees?' "Then the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come, reign over us!' "But the fig tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to wave over the trees?' "Then the trees said to the vine, 'You come, reign over us!' "But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?' "Finally all the trees said to the bramble, 'You come, reign over us!' "The bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you are anointing me as king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, may fire come out from the bramble and consume the cedars of Lebanon.'

Gideon was not a king and he had many wives and 70 sons. Although he had refused to be king and had told the people the Lord would be their king, he contradictorily named one of his sons by a concubine from Shechem, Abimelech, which means my father is king. We can commend him for the right motive in rejecting the kingship, but then he named this son incorrectly. This revealed disagreement in his spirit that opened a door for devastation through devalued leadership.

Abimelech came to the throne based on sacrificing his 70 brothers on one stone. It was a bloody throne. He did it by hiring thugs for 70 pieces of silver from the temple of Baal-berith in Shechem. Human sacrifice is based on demonic strategy. The current murders of 54,000,000 pre-born babies is not merely a political preference. It is demonic. It is a throne built on blood. Abimelech sold them a lie and sold the people on his plan saying it would be better to be ruled by one than by 70 of his brothers. The problem was that **Divinely ordered government acknowledges the one true God and allows for many diversified human rulers, but the pagan system is one ruler and many idols and gods.** God distributes and de-centralizes power because too much power in one person corrupts. God did not author Babel, He tore it down. Rome allowed many gods as long as citizens recognized Caesar as lord of all of them. However, **God's way is one God and many delegated leaders.** Centralized government that characterized Rome and Babel is a society built on humanism. All humanistic societies are built upon the murder of man. We saw this in Nazi Germany, Stalinist Russia and Maoist China in the twentieth century. Had the sons of Gideon lived, they might have been a little better off than Abimelech, however they themselves were entrapped again into idolatry. I don't think I could present a more discouraging scenario about devalued leadership in the days of God's people, but the good news is that this era came to pass and didn't come to stay.

Now, here is the good part: Jotham rises up! The youngest of

Gideon's boys, Jotham, had hidden himself and escaped the bloody murder of all his brothers. Through history, when God has to, He replaces leaders. The principle here is that the younger brother will be anointed to rise up and replace and redeem the older brother or brothers. In this case, Jotham can't redeem the murdered brothers, but he can release God's righteous judgment and divine vengeance upon them. So he stands in a place as a redeemer as he prophesies himself as the youngest about those who would follow him, like David was the youngest of Jesse's boys, like Jesus, the second Adam who replaced the first Adam and redeemed him. We have to have a synergy generational connection in God, but we have to have trust in the Lord that He raises up the younger. Maybe sometimes they are more inexperienced, but they have something in God that can add to the equation of God's redemptive purpose in this era. That is why we have to loose and let these generations come up at every level to minister the Kingdom of God. They have insight some others do not have. We don't have to worry about all their credentials. I am not saying that we give novices authority, but let anybody with anointing release it. Jotham was standing on Mt. Gerizim right where Joshua had stood and read the blessings of the covenant from Gerizim and the curses of the covenant from Mt. Ebal.

Then we come to that rather mysterious section that I call a fable-like metaphor in Judges 9:8. The trees in the metaphor represent Israel. Israel was called to give shade to the nations. So, the trees represent Israel crying out for a leader. They desired a king, but they wanted a king like the other nations around them who did not have covenant with the Lord God Himself. We too cry out for leadership in political realms. Sadly, the voice of sanity in the governmental realm is rare, but when true leadership steps up and says what is right and says it well, we rejoice. We are not searching for a king to replace King Jesus, but we are looking for godly leaders.

The metaphor of the trees obviously, clearly and fundamentally contrasts and distinguishes productive leadership from unproductive leadership or devalued leadership. The olive tree, fig tree and fruit of the vine are productive. A godly society is productive, Gen. 1:28. A productive society is a blessing and fulfills God's purpose. So when the olive tree in verse 9 says he is not going to forsake what he is called to do, which is to produce oil for food, medicine and to anoint leaders, God and men are honored (meaning the glory of God) by the productivity of the olive tree. The people are either under the weight of the glory of God through honorable, productive leaders or under the oppressive weight of dishonorable, devalued leaders. That tells us that leadership is not only about leading but

about connecting with people they are to lead, and the people that are being led will be led into productivity that blesses God and man.

Now the fig tree says he cannot leave his job of bringing forth fruit that is superior to all others in sweetness. In Egypt they tasted bitter herbs. Bondage always leaves a bitter taste in the mouth, but freedom in God has a sweet taste. Then the vine says it cannot quit its job of producing grapes that gladdens men's hearts. Proverbs says that when the righteous rule, the people rejoice. When the unrighteous rule, the people groan. So they all turned down the offer because they knew their calling.

However, the bramble, the most unqualified, the devalued one, didn't turn down the offer. It was a thorny plant, the emblem of a curse, that said he would rule over them. The bramble is useful as a hedge but dangerous to come near. Metaphorically, it represents Abimelech as a cruel, oppressive king. Here's the main point, the bramble produces nothing. It grows along the ground and demands all other trees take shelter in its shade. That's ridiculous. This is a demand that when the bramble rules, all society be reduced to the lowest common denominator. The bramble will only outshine the vine, the fig and the olive when they are reduced to something lower than the bramble. That causes those who were fulfilling their productivity to become unproductive because they dare not outperform their bramble king. Therefore, the bramble not being oriented toward productivity is oriented toward tyrannical rule. He represents the ungodly ruler who builds a society based on taking what others have produced. The bramble leads a socialistic society based on massive confiscation of the wealth of other people, their hard savings and capital. The bramble is an imperialistic society based on the conquest of weaker people and their production. It is a slave society based on the forced labor of the people. The bramble society is the society of the curse. The bramble leader is a man of wrath. If you don't agree or bow to the Chavez or Castro residual regime, then you will be destroyed. I pray, Lord, let communism fall in Venezuela, Cuba and America.

So there are brush fires in the low-lying bramble bush and when it catches fire it can be so devastating that even the impressive, huge cedars of Lebanon are threatened, but here comes Jotham's prophecy (9:20), *"But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech and consume the men of Shechem and Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem and from Beth-millo, and consume Abimelech."* Fire will come out from the bramble leader because the people are not doing what he wants them to do and they will turn on him. He will then set fire to their kingdom but yet they will come and devour their king with fire. The Shechemites, those

followers of Baal-berith, the compromisers and the idolaters will be ablaze. God will send the fire even through the unrighteous leader. The bramble society is self-destructive as is bramble leadership. **Mutual destruction is the end game for devalued leadership.** There is our hope, evil is self-destructive. The brambles cannot win in history. Eventually bramble people destroy each other. Bramble people grow to hate their bramble leader. A civilization based on hard work and capital accumulation will eventually overcome a civilization based on theft and violence. It is deception to think a bramble can rule because he rules by deception.

Back in 1934, American journalist, William Shirer, said about Hitler, "It didn't matter what he said but how he said it." Content didn't matter. "What he said was nonsense and untrue but the people believed it. They lapped up every word as utter truth as they sat spellbound." There's a whole lot of deception going around and there are those who market it and profit from it. Though we encourage political involvement, beyond that God's ecclesia has to stand as a pillar in ground-level truth. **Someone has to tell the truth.**

The ultimate fulfillment of the first directive of the cultural dominion mandate, being fruitful and productive, is only possible when we as a family and society are functioning under righteous representative leadership. Our nation becomes unproductive as expression of unproductive, devalued leadership, but the good news is that history tells us God uses imperfect people to release a portion of His will and purpose in the earth. We are not asking for perfect leaders. There haven't been any perfect ones yet, but we are appealing to the Lord to raise up productive leaders whose objective is more than blocking the agenda of the opposing political party. Give us leaders with a vision for the future based on common sense and divine destiny. Our history as Americans goes back to the truth some older leaders can be replaced by younger leaders. God always has hope in the next generation coming up. They will see more of God and have revelation to do better than the predecessor. We have to believe the younger redeems the older. In the Old Covenant, the first son who got the double portion never did the redeeming. It was the younger that had to redeem the older. This pointed to Jesus, the second Adam who redeemed the first Adam. Jesus as the true first born got the double portion and shares it with the Church.

History, including Bible history, reveals that older leaders are replaced by younger leaders. Our history in America is not unblemished we know, but on occasion, leaders are able to build on the good things the founding fathers established and to lead us in repentance concerning in-

justice and unrighteous activities in our history. Wise leaders can do both. They can lead us to deal with injustice that is not resolved and they can lead us into righteous leadership. May our nation be governed by the olive, fig and vine, the three representing God in His triuneness. The prophet Isaiah said (33:22), "The LORD is our king. The LORD is our judge. The LORD is our lawgiver." Right there is the history of America's founding, three-fold government, judicial, legislative and executive. May our nation again be led by productive leaders who inspire productive citizens. The earth is full of untapped resources and God's Kingdom is expanding. May we expect to recover from devalued leadership. May we be aware of its cunning devices and be the ecclesia to stand up in this hour and govern in the Spirit, opening every sphere that God has ordained (family, church and civil realm) so that righteous men and women rise and take their place.

(Jim Hodges is the founder of the Federation of Ministers and Churches International, a relational, apostolic network of ministers, apostolic teams and local churches across the nation. Having ministered in over 40 nations, Apostle Hodges serves the Body of Christ internationally as a teaching apostle with a passion to see the Body of Christ fully established. Apostle Jim Hodges' new book *WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THE CHURCH TO DO?* This book and other materials may be found at his website: fmci.org or by calling the office 972-283-2262.)

[illegible]

I asked permission from Jean Hodges to share with you this word that I believe is very timely for the Body of Christ.

Jean Hodges—

After a time of pouring out my heart to the Lord this is what He said to me: "Rest now and let Me pluck the burrs away - let Me feed you with strength, quicken your heart - for it is your heart that I nurture and refresh. Do not punish yourself - for I do not. Come with Me - we have new places to go, higher places—where your vision will see the panorama of your future, and My Heart to bring you to fullness in Me".

After writing that I read the Scripture that was at the top of my booklet, this is what it said: (Romans 8:27-28, Msg) "So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons, There are things to do and places to go" !



Heb 10:25-39, *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.* [This is present tense. The church had quit assembling because of the tremendous persecution of the Judaizers against the church and the tyranny of Rome.]

26 *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,* 30 *For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "**The Lord will judge His people.**"* 31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* 32 *But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.* [Their stuff was being taken away from them. That's why they combined their possessions in Acts. God is not against us having private property. This was a people receiving persecution that was from those about to be judged.]

35 *Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.* 36 *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "**For yet a little while, and***



He who is coming will come and will not tarry. [That's not the end of the world but the end of an old covenant age. He is coming to judge Israel and that temple and that city. Every time Israel had seen "a day of the Lord" it had been judgment on their enemies, but this time it was God's judgment on them. In 70 AD it was God's judgment against apostate Israel. God had been married to them. They were adulterers that had to be stoned and that happened in 70 AD. How can we be the new bride if He has not divorced the old one?] 38 *Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.* 39 *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.* (NKJV)

Heb.12:26-29, *whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."* 27 **Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.** "Being shaken" is present tense. What is being shaken? The temple and the city that was "MADE." Forces gathered in Jerusalem, even Rome was coming down. The city was in rebellion and chaos . . . being shaken so that we can receive a Kingdom that can't be shaken. This was the fulfillment of the times of the Gentiles in Matt 24. The end of the Gentiles is this: **no longer can a foreign nation find the temple of the Lord and tear it down.** The worship of God could never again be stopped. Under the Old Covenant, nations could stop their worship by taking their temple. There was no longer one place - for there is no longer a building but a people of God that worship in Spirit and in Truth. The old temple was a hindering point of the New Covenant. When it was removed, the Kingdom fully begins and cannot be shaken.

When Jesus put the bread and wine to His mouth, He said this is the reality of my new Kingdom. As it increases righteousness increases and darkness has to decrease. Jesus said go to all the nations with this light of the Kingdom and change their cultures. We are to take nations, not go to mountains to hide. We should not get out of government and education but advance and take the Kingdom light there. What gospel or good news is there in gathering a few stragglers to go to heaven?

Things which cannot be shaken will remain. The church can be shaken, but the Kingdom cannot. The world can get into the church but not the Kingdom. Everyone in the Kingdom is in the church but not everyone in the church is in the Kingdom. The church does not produce the Kingdom. The Kingdom produces the church. **We are not serving a God**

who simply loves us and anything goes. We are serving the God who rules who loves us.

28 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.* 29 *For our God is a consuming fire.* (NKJ) This consuming fire was about to tear the temple down. The city and the temple were burned to the ground.

In James 5, he is speaking to a present tense generation, not a future people. These people lived in anticipation for the immediate return of the Lord. They were under persecution. We don't live with that anticipation. Rather we are stewards that know we must prepare for a journey. James 5:7-8, *Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.* 8 *You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.* (NKJV)

1 Peter 4:7, *But the end of all things is at hand; [right now] therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.* (NKJV) This too is present tense to those being persecuted by Israel. Peter was dealing with a persecuted people because the early Church was going through hell. Who was the Church's number one persecutor? It was Israel, trying to get them back under the Old Covenant.

If by God's grace we can see this and enter into the glory of the New Covenant, our family and our lives will change. We may ask, "What does it matter if we believe this coming of the Lord was then or not?" The importance is this: if we don't see this truth, we will remain under the paradigm that things must get worse. People will fight you when you grow and prosper from glory to glory because their paradigm is "everything must get worse". **God's redemptive Kingdom puts a seed in us that must grow.** Our lives should be more glorious at the end than any other time. Now in the church we get old and they throw us away (and that with reason.) But if we have a Kingdom that cannot be shaken we continue to increase.

How are we to live in this redemptive process looking forward to the second coming? Dispensationalism says if we don't tell our kids He is coming any day, they will not live for Him. When did that ever work? You cannot scare the hell out of a generation, but they will give their life for the Kingdom! We have a Kingdom that is like a leaven growing inside us and changing us. They will prosper and flourish moving toward His second coming. Dispensationalism says the worst is yet to come but I believe the scriptures say the best is yet to come!

(This article was taken from a teaching given by Simon Purvis. He is the lead teacher at the Word of Life Teaching Center in Lufkin, TX. Training is at 10:00am each Sunday. To contact him about speaking engagements or to purchase his 160 page study manual on the Kingdom of God, call Word of Life Teaching Center at 936-639-2000; Email: mapwol@consolidated.net)

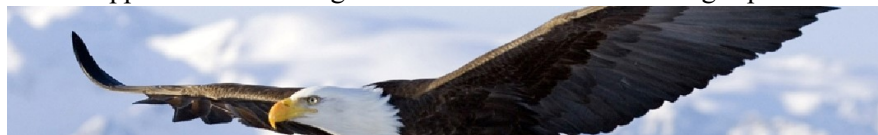


It's our time to be who God intended us to be. First things first, however. Let me clarify. A prophetic lifestyle does not mean you have to be a Prophet. The office of prophet is designated by God and recognized by the 5 fold ministry. We are all capable of living a prophetic lifestyle without being a prophet.

What is a prophetic lifestyle? It is hearing and seeing God's intention about the here and now, and what is to come on a regular basis. Or as my Mom puts it, "PROPHETIC" is God revealing Himself, His thoughts, His will, His insights, His plans, His wisdom or instructions or warnings or the plans of hell. Why is a prophetic lifestyle important? A prophetic lifestyle starts with a hearing ear. The statement "*He who has ears to hear let him hear*" is made in all of the following passages: Matthew 11:15; 13:9; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8; Revelation 2:7; 3:6. To be said this many times must mean it's rather important. This lifestyle lives in agreement with the intentions of God and stops enemy assignments from manifesting on the earth.

You are a representative of heaven during your lifetime. "*But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A CONSECRATED NATION, A [special] PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*" (1 Peter 2:9, Amplified)

The prophetic lifestyle opens opportunities, timing, and connections. Opportunities: having the ears to hear to be at the right place at the



right time for yourself and others. Timing: none of us understand the timing of God because He is working on so many levels. It takes a prophetic lifestyle to see beyond the limited vision of our normal dimensions. It can keep you sane where timing is concerned. Connection: Brings lives together for God team-ups, projects, events, etc. We were never meant to do life alone (1 Corinthians 12:20-21). In this day and age, this way of life is a total necessity for the body of Christ.

How do you know if what you are hearing is God? Well, does it line up with His word? For instance, murder and adultery... not God! Also, He trains you to hear Him. *"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them."* (Proverbs 2:12) Sometimes we train ourselves to ignore the prophetic lifestyle because we don't want to be weird. This really is an epic life we are meant to live. Not fairytale or fantasy, but epic. Why epic? Unlike fairytale or fantasy that denote magic, rainbows and butterflies, and other-worldly superhumans, "epic" denotes work, grit, fight, humans living their destiny and winning. So, don't ignore His training. Don't ignore that relationship.

The following list is not only how the prophetic lifestyle is lived out, it is also ways in which He trains us for a prophetic lifestyle. *This is not a comprehensive list. There are so many ways to hear from the Alpha and Omega. We don't all have the same exact experiences because we each have a personal relationship with God. The way you hear has to do with this most important relationship of your life! But, as you'll see, there are similarities in ways we all hear.*

1.) Coincidences: the occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection. (Webster's Dictionary) Coincidences can easily be put in the *I don't want to be weird* category, so they can easily be ignored. Pay attention! Remember, God is working on many levels, so why would we not experience coincidences?

2.) DeJa-Vu: a feeling that one has seen or heard something before. (Webster's Dictionary) Nope, not spooky at all, rather a fantastic training experience! If you have one simply ask what you need to see. If you don't get an answer, perhaps you were being trained to pay attention.

3.) Dreams: of course God speaks to us in dreams. Our conscious mind is out of the way.

4.) Visions: are like a movie in your head or right before your eyes.

5.) Double-take: is that thing which makes you look again because you thought you saw something and it ends up not being there.

6.) Feelings: are about a knowing in your gut, excitement out of nowhere, uneasiness out of nowhere.

7.) Urges: to pray, do something, call someone, go somewhere.

8.) Hearing: still small voice or loud and clear.

9.) Thoughts: came out of nowhere. You weren't even thinking about that subject and the thought won't go away. It just sits in your mind.

10.) The place between awake and asleep: the mind is not in the way here. From my experience these moments have been very clear.

11.) In conversation: something strikes a chord, confirms something you heard, or an idea comes "out of nowhere". An inspirational conversation, if you will.

What do I do when these things occur? Here's where I start: TAKE THE TIME TO PAY ATTENTION. Remember, this life is meant to be EPIC. Take time to act, pray, speak it/declare it, write it down or simply agree in that moment. If it's not obvious what to do, ask God for instruction. You may need to hold on to it for future reference. Don't get impatient and jump into action if the action is not clear. That could lead to an unpleasant outcome. He could be training you in that moment, getting you ready.

Personal Responsibility for the Prophetic Lifestyle:

1.) Read the Bible. Remember, the Bible is written FOR us, not TO us. The Word specifies who it is written TO. Reading the Bible keeps you familiar with God's ways. God highlights and pinpoints scriptures for wisdom, action, prayer, declaration, etc.

2.) Pray... specifically in tongues. It keeps your eyes and ears open. Ephesians 3:16, 20-21- "*That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*" Praying in tongues charges our spirit man. The spirit (inner man) needs to be charged way more than the soul does. Praying in tongues brings that charge which in turn brings clarity. "Your soul drinks in what your ears and eyes and emotions are exposed to all day. The only way you can renew your mind and take dominion over the demonic assault on your feelings and thoughts is to be filled with the Spirit!" (Lance Wallnau).

For a final note on the prophetic lifestyle:

I will boil it down to this. The key is awareness. We must remember, at all times that the Kingdom of God is invading this nation. Each one of us has a piece of the Kingdom that penetrates and affects the region around us. We are going to WIN this fight. Hey, it's not pretty right now, but no matter what you see, hear,

or face, it has no effect on what God has set in motion. After all, He has the last word!

If you feel worried, afraid, or uneasy that's your clue that the Prophetic Lifestyle needs a re-boot. Make sure you keep the air cleared in your vicinity. One great way of doing that is, like we discussed, upping your prayer in tongues. Talk about an air purifier! Speaking in tongues is a beautiful weapon from Heaven for such a time as this. We are all capable of living a prophetic lifestyle without being a Prophet.

(This article is from Melissa's message at DVP2017. CDs are available for 5.00 each plus 2.00 s/h. SEEC Ministries POBox 298 Coldspring, TX 77331)



How To Measure The Value Of The Local Church

**“It is worth just what it develops in you and your measure
of what you give back.”**

The church is a living organism consisting of people related to the Living Savior Jesus Christ who rules over them and works through them from His place from Heaven on earth. Paul tells us that gifted people have been given to the church in order to bring members of Christ's Body to a place of maturity and fruitfulness in service. (Eph. 4:11-13 Lexham English Bible) *“And He Himself gave some as apostles and some as prophets and some as evangelists and some as pastor and teachers for the equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the Body of Christ until we all reach the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to a measure of the maturity of the fullness of Christ.”*

The “seen and unseen” are two pertinent aspects for the believer to grow in their faith and for the non-believer who is seeking to know God and understand the truth. The church is the pillar of that truth. (Eph. 1:22) “...And gave him to be the head over all things to the church.” The local church has an important role in this process. People in it have been called to fill the important Biblical roles of pastor, teacher, evangelist, exhorter, giver, learner and disciple. It has a divine design to educate, to hold you up in weak or difficult times, to inspire you with “higher thoughts” and with improved dispositions. Of course, all of this is based on Christ being the center of the church, to give power to lift you into the invisible realms and grace to live in the visible realms of reality. (2 Cor. 4:18) “While we look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” Look around, you have received it’s blessing and have seen them imparted to others. It teaches us that nothing less than God can satisfy or inform you in incomparable ways once thought unknown or possible. It is a place to remind us of what our mission is and to uncover and to discover our vision where His vision and ours become one. It is learning together, praying together, serving together and worshipping together, discovering the worth of each other.

Joint collaboration, side-by-side, hand-in-hand and shoulder-to-shoulder is ***where cooperation's sum exceeds in great accomplishment all for His glory***. It is learning love, who love is, what love is and then loving those who Christ died for. **Love is sort of a measure of our efficiency**. Love should have instant and long-lasting results, in the person giving it and the person receiving it. You are His Church, He is the Head. (Col. 1:18 KJV) “And He is head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence (to be first in rank and influence).” The church is a treasure chest of secret mysteries revealed to those who seek Him. (1 Timothy 3:16 NHEB) “Without controversy, the mystery of godliness is great; He was revealed in the flesh, Justified by the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, and received up in glory.” (Mt. 13:16-17 Mess) “But you have God-blessed eyes-eyes that see! And God-blessed ears-ears that hear! A lot of people, prophets and humble believers among them, would have given anything to see what you are seeing, to hear what you are hearing, but never had the chance.” It is a place where the sureness of His promises and His love-fueled presence intersect. When in our openness and honest hearts, we surrender our preconceived solution to our trials, that is when and where He ***speaks quietly and moves quickly*** to defend, hedge about and fortify our wounded spirit.

It is a place of people just like you. (Hebrews 10:23-25 New Living Translation) *“Let us hold tightly, without wavering to the hope we affirm [State as a fact strongly and perfectly] for God can be trusted [believe in the strength of His reliability] to keep his promise. Let us think of ways to motivate [by inspiring, influencing] one another to acts of love and good works and let us not neglect [abandon, desert] our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”*

Too often among Christians the Church is viewed as OK, but rarely as necessary. Too many who claim to be born again, view the Church as optional. It is sorta like, “If it meets my needs, I’m onboard. If it doesn’t, don’t bother me with it.” In the scheme of things, the church’s ratings has dropped from “10” (the highest) to between 4-7. Also, in the world, the Church has less importance. The Church has been marginalized in our thinking, so that we miss God’s perspective and priority for His Church. I recently said, “In the end we win! Jesus is still the author and finisher of our faith and the world will miss the Church when it’s gone.” What matters to God is the Church. Christ said, *“I will build my church.”* (Matt. 16:18) That is exactly what He’s doing, that’s where His focus is. *“Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”* (Eph. 5:25) God’s eternal purpose centers on Christ and His Church. If we want our lives to count for eternity, we’ve got to get God’s vision and purpose for the Church and live accordingly. If you give your life in service to His Church, you are giving it to and for Him and the one collective entity He esteems.

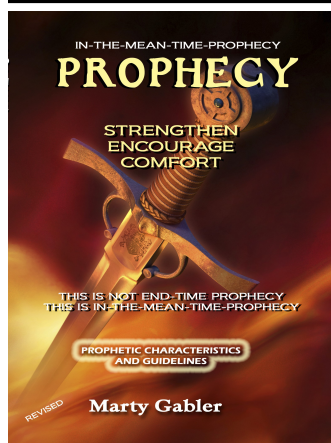
There is a story of three men who were working on a stone pile at a construction site. A man passing by wanted to know about all the activity. He asks the first man, “What are you doing?” “Chiseling stone,” was his reply. That reply didn’t really satisfy his curiosity so he asked the second man, “What are you doing?” “Earning a living”, yet another dead end. With only one left, he asked the third, “Sir, what are you doing?” The man dropped his sledge hammer, stood up straight and with a confident voice exclaimed, “I’m building a great cathedral.” All three men were doing the same job but only one of them saw how his role fit into a larger, more important vision. How do you view your role in the Church?

Paul speaks to how our lives fit into God’s glorious eternal purpose for His Church. When we see this, it will help us deal practically with life’s difficult trials. (Eph. 3:8b-11 NIV) *“...this grace was given to me; to preach to the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery which for ages past*

*was kept hidden in God, who created all things.” His intent was that (now), through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in heavenly realms. God’s eternal purpose is to sum up all things in Christ. He is the centerpiece of history. The Old Testament looks forward to Christ and all the New Testament gives testimony of Him. He is the head of the body, the Church and the Church is central to God’s purpose. *Whoever heard of a church without Christ?* Yet many churches have not realized how they’ve broken His heart by making it a *meeting place with no presence or power or purpose*. They come, they show up, **but they’re not there!** All the trials of life have blunted their power.*

This is a time of recovery. Recover your purpose. Discard doubt, bitterness and turn your glazed eyes to gaze upon Jesus. Look around you, we need each other. Know that you matter more than ever before. ***Revisit the cross. Rethink the “why He chose you.”*** You matter to Him, you matter to His Church and to your Church. Ask Him to open your spiritual eyes to see what is your “*reasonable service*” (Rom.12:1). Consider these strong descriptions of the power of the Church: where two or three are gathered (“in my name”), if two of you will agree on earth (“a threefold cord is not easily broken”), if one can put a thousand to flight, two can put 10,000 to flight! ***You are the Church’s multiplier.*** The power of the Church is that the Church has lovingly placed Christ at the center, fully vested, all. The Church has a purpose. Discover yours where you worship.

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Marty's latest book release ***PROPHECY—STRENGTHEN ENCOURAGE COMFORT*** is now available.

It is the author's hope that persons who read this study will be inspired to see more prophetic possibilities and make themselves more available than ever before to be used more fully by the Holy Spirit in expressing the "testimony of Jesus".

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The local news coverage on television was non-stop 24/7 for at least five or six days. The live images displayed on the screen were almost beyond belief as we watched the flood waters rise to levels not seen in our area in several hundred years. The effects of Hurricane Harvey took a devastating toll as hundreds and probably thousands of homes filled up with water causing multitudes to lose all that they owned, even human life itself.

It is not uncommon for a disaster of this magnitude to be given so much airtime. Remember 9-11? The difference was the constant display of the community's response to this disaster. From first-responders (Police, Fireman, Paramedics, Coast Guard, etc.) to ordinary citizens and neighbors putting their own boats in the water, it was a rescue effort unlike anything I have seen. It was a shining example of how good overcomes evil. Hurricanes are evil. No, they are not sent by God to punish people. My father is not like that! But the purpose of this article is not to discuss the origin of storms.

As I watched this event transpire, this thought came to me – we are all first-responders. Then, I heard these words in my spirit, “What is your first response to evil?”. As I pondered the question I thought of Jesus’ response when the disciples reported to Him that the Samaritan village they had gone into to prepare for His arrival had rejected Him. James and John said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from



heaven and consume them as Elijah did?” Jesus rebuked them, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save them.” (Lk.9:54-55)

We humans have been designed to respond. We respond to touch, pain, words, injustice, love and hate. If you are like me, you can think of certain situations where you responded to a word, an action, or an accusation in a way that you’ve later regretted because it only made the situation worse or caused pain to someone. We are faced with situations daily that generate responses from us, be they good or bad. In a culture where the news media, social media, and the entertainment industry all vie for our attention in an effort to draw some sort of response from us, it would be most beneficial to us and those around us if we could train ourselves to respond correctly.

Good has been under assault from evil since the beginning of mankind’s existence on this earth. God, whose ways are higher than our ways, has shown us the way to overcome evil. He has shown us how through The Way, His Son, Jesus Christ. We cannot overcome evil with evil. It can only be overcome with good. Apostle Paul gives us this admonishment in Romans 12:17-21 -

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.

The reference to coals of fire is a quote from Proverbs 25:22. In the Bible Knowledge Commentary on Proverbs it says this:

“Sometimes a person’s fire went out and he needed to borrow some live coals to restart his fire. Giving a person coals to carry home ‘on his head’ was a neighborly, kind act; it made friends, not enemies.”

It makes absolutely no sense to my natural mind to give something beneficial to my enemy, but I’ve been given the mind of Christ, the same Christ who told us, “Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:43-45) Why does He tell us to do these things? So that we may be sons of our Father.

Every time we respond to evil in the opposite spirit, we are participating in something redemptive. I can think of so many instances in everyday life whether they were in the workplace, the neighborhood, the interstate highway, and even in church, where I chose to respond in the opposite spirit. Whether it was responding calmly to someone who was agitated, or choosing to speak a word of blessing in the face of accusation, each time I did, the chaos was quelled. I can also recall times where I didn't respond in the spirit of Christ and lived to regret them.

Another way that we can see the redemptive purposes of God come to light in a situation that seems to be evil, whether it be a personal attack against us or in something more distant that we seem to have no control over, is to ask this simple question: "Father, what are you doing right now?" That is what true sons in the kingdom do. That is the way of Jesus. Jesus only did what He saw His Father doing.

Jesus showed us what this lifestyle of redemptive response looks like through His life, but even more so in His death. For it was in the face of the greatest demonstration of hate the world has ever seen that he uttered these well known yet mysterious words from the cross, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" It was the ultimate act of self-giving love. It was good overcoming evil. A revolution began that day. It is not a revolution of force, war, violence, revenge, or the strength and cunning of men. It is a revolution of laying down one's life for others. From the cross, the Son of God asks us the question, "Sons, what will your response be to evil?" We represent the Father best when we love in the face of hate, give in the face of destruction, and offer hope in the midst of despair.

I would like to share with you a daily prayer that has had a huge impact on me since the beginning of the year:

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy,

O' Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

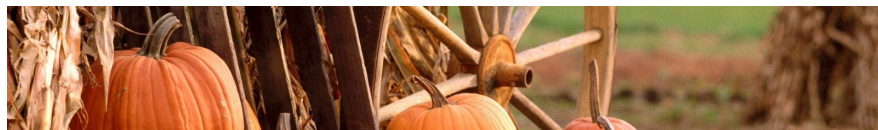
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.

(Kevin Sherman and his wife Becky live in Conroe, TX. Kevin is the father of four sons. He serves at Grace International Church as a teacher and EYC staff member. He is also currently a teacher and mentor at Fresh Start in Conroe. Kevin writes a weekly blog. To subscribe go to: asyouthink.org)



I. TENDING TO BUSINESS

Notice the title here. The word "toward" has much purpose in it. In other words, there are things that we need to tend to before we go about the business of prophesying. There was a time a couple of decades ago when the prophetic began to be restored to the Body of Christ. People began to be moved upon by the Spirit of prophecy or began to operate in a gift of prophecy or began to walk in the office of a prophet. When all of that began happening, people were really zealous and many of us were just doing it without knowing anything about it or taking any time to learn anything about it.



About a half-century ago teachers were beginning to get revelation about who we are in Christ Jesus and that we have authority in that position. But very few were attempting to discover anything about that authority and its implications and responsibilities. As a result, in some cases, there were people who like the sons of Sceva were going out on their own and, as it were, "running out of houses naked" because of a lack of knowledge about gifts, authority, responsibility and relationship in the Kingdom of God.

One lady we know told us an interesting story when she took it on herself to do deliverance at a mental hospital. She had heard about the brother of an acquaintance who was in lock-up due to his mental problems. She decided that she would go and deliver him of the demon that was behind all those interesting reports. This dear zealous person had heard some wonderful stories from the Charismatics she was fellowshiping of exercising the power and authority of the believer but she hadn't heard biblical principles on the matter.

The doctor's aide brought the man to the meeting room and sat him across the table from this lady and told her she had ten minutes visitation time as he was on his way out the door. She began to command the devil to come out of him in the Name of Jesus. The man began to manifest, his face contorted and he began to growl. It was not quite the scenario she had anticipated from the pieced-together reports of her friends' victorious encounters. Not really knowing what to do next she began to cry out, "Get back in, in the Name of Jesus!" and she reported with much relief that, in fact, the demon went back in.

II. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

In many cases we were just told that we had authority and that we could do stuff with it. We didn't know how to use it nor did we know how to stay under the authority of God, under the authority of spiritual oversight and responsibly act in that authority. Nothing was ever discussed about finding out what our "measure of rule" was (cf. 2Co 10:12-18). It really is wise for us to back up, even though it may mean having to restrain "faith-backed" zeal, and learn some foundations that are firm ground to stand on, especially when things tend to get shaky. In some cases we're trying to take two or three steps forward and we're finding out that we're having to back up one or two and say, "Excuse us Father, we forgot about Hosea 4:6": *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge* (NAS). There is a tendency to forget about the whole counsel of God (cf. Acts 20:27; Isa

46:10-11; Jer 23:22; Mt 28:20). Here is an area where it became visible through the '80's that prophetic people truly do need that complementary gift of teacher. We have stopped short when we just take the parts that excite us at the time. Now, as a result, we are having to actually back up and get some of the elemental things taken care of and understood so we can go on. Those Kingdom opportunities and potential that await us in the days to come require we be prepared to act effectively, efficiently and excellently if we are to speak or act at all in the Name of our Lord.

III. FATHER'S KEYS AND FATHER'S SONS

God is not going to give the keys of a brand new Lexus to a three-year-old. Three-year-olds ride tricycles and stick horses. Sons (cf. Heb 2:10; Rom 8:14) have a desire for the Three E's of ministry: Efficiency, Effectiveness and Excellence. *Whoever speaks, {let him speak,} as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, {let him do so} as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* (1Pe 4:11, NAS; also Ps 9:1; 1Co 10:31). Those are elements in the makeup of the key to "the Lexus" of the privilege and responsibility Father wants His sons to experience. But some folks are like leftover hippies from the 60's who are willing to drive a rusted-out Volkswagen. However, our Father is looking for mature sons that can be relied upon to operate in the vehicle of His authority and carry the opportunities of manhood. Gal 4:5*to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.* (NIV)

A mature son is one who has been afforded the right of acting in his father's name as well as having the portion of his father's land, etc., which is properly his according to heirship. The many-colored coat of Joseph was representative of authority. His older brothers deeply resented the fact that their father had favored him with his authority and openly showed it by placing a visible sign upon his person. I'm not speaking here of so-called prosperity concepts but of privilege to operate in the power of the Holy Spirit by grace provided us through an awesomely powerful resurrected Jesus. The principle of a father desiring to release his authority upon his son (and power to act in his name) is a repeated theme in the Bible. ("sons" in scripture is not a term referring to gender but to position and "manhood" represents maturity, not maleness; also Lk 15:22; Jn 1:12; Gal 3:26-4:7; Heb 2:10)

IV. GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS THOU KNOWEST NOT

Almighty God is interested in using His sons in the "high-powered thing" in this hour. I believe scripture demonstrates for us that there is a "high-powered thing" that is above and beyond (and on a totally different level and category from) anything that we have ever comprehended or understood in God. When hunters go after big game, they take a "high-powered" rifle to properly do the job. My Dad once told me about a man in a difficult legal jam who got himself a "high-powered" lawyer to get him out. Jer 33:3 *Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.* (KJV) Cf. Micah 7:15: Eph 3:20; Isa 45:3. The high level of opposition we are up against in this world requires a high level of power in response. The Father must know that He can expect us to obey in any given situation. Such a trust on His part would be witness to the fact that our sentiments and our emotions are fully in check -- that our *meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.* (Jn 4:34, KJV) We desire to speak for God but our tongue must be submitted to His control and out from under the control of our emotions and prejudices.

These are some reasons why, often, God has not been able to release "thy Kingdom come" power and authority to those who, in prayer, most zealously seek Him for it. It is because of our lack of knowledge -- that understanding of the Father/son relationship that is totally trusting on both sides. A child has a great zealotness to get his hands on machinery and hear the sounds and feel the momentum and experience the power. Put him behind the wheel of that Lexus and see how long that Lexus lasts -- and then throw in a little imagination concerning property damage and the bruising effects on life and limb of those who happen to be around when he is trying to manipulate that vehicle. Well, God's vehicle of power was made possible by the blood of Jesus so we're talking about a whole new category. There are people who place high hopes on Acts 17:30 and have their fingers crossed that God still winks at ignorance. God quit winking.

V. UNDER AUTHORITY.... THEN.... IN AUTHORITY

We've got to be men and women *under authority* before we can be men and women *in authority*. Loosey--goosey morals and mushy lines of accountability will not meet the standards of a Holy God. There are those who are willing to simply overlook every kind of moral and ethical "fall" while patting such persons on the back and acting as though they did nothing more than burp in public. Some persons have not even been required

to walk out any season of repentance but simply go on about their business with somewhat of an embarrassed posture when scriptural standard requires *that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance*. (Acts 26:20, NAS)

God does not continually release His authority to those who decide varying standards for various individuals according to their position or notoriety. Sons are those who operate upon the standards of God's Word and God's character — for themselves and others. We do not get to make decisions of authority until we are submitted to authority and stay within its parameters. That doesn't mean that those who use elastic theology, when convenient, won't have successful organizations. Crowd-building methodology and money-raising tactics work in any field of endeavor. Where we will see the difference is in the area of spiritual power to do the works of Jesus.

Acts 2:22 *"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--* (NAS)

Rom 14:17 *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who in this {way} serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.* (NAS)

2 Cor 10:18 *For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.* (NAS)

2 Tim 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.* (NAS)

I realize that I chance being called harsh at this point but the principles of God and the character of God are what the Kingdom power of God operates on. When Kingdom order and principles are in operation the results are proportionate to the miracles that Jesus had when He proclaimed to the delivered persons “the Kingdom of God has come unto you” (Mt 12:28; Lk 10:9). God will not entertain unclean, impure vessels. I didn't say “imperfect” vessels. If God stopped using imperfect vessels He wouldn't have anything to use. I said “impure” vessels. There is a big difference.

VI. LIFESTYLE

Prayer life — I'm sorry folks, but that's where we've got to start. You

don't have to read very far to find that prayer was an overwhelming factor in God's moving at Azusa Street. There is one band of people saying, "Revival is coming -- and God's awesome and He's the Arbiter of the universe and He's sovereign -- so revival is coming -- there's nothing you can do to keep it from coming." Then there is another camp saying, "You've got to pray night and day -- you've got to go with out food and water '300 days' out of the year to see revival." God is probably standing in the middle saying, "I want to get you two married. I am sovereign and it's going to happen, but you better be prepared and get your vessel cleaned up if you desire to be a viable part of this time in history." Isa 38:1 *"Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order'"* ("house": 1004 bay-ith- human bodies (figurative); household affairs; on the inside; within (B-D-B).

Ps 50:23 *"He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; and to him who orders {his} way {aright} I shall show the salvation of God."* (NAS)

Eph 4:22-24 *that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in {the likeness of} God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.* (NAS)

Titus 2:12 *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.* (NIV)

(This article is an excerpt from Marty's latest book release PROPHECY—STRENGTHEN ENCOURAGE COMFORT. This is his book on prophecy that has been revised, now with more content. PO Box 298 Coldspring, TX 77331. 10.00 + 2.00 S/H.)

OCTOBER IS FOR.....

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER IS FOR rising above harassment. October is for overcoming harassment, moving out of reach of harassment. The harassing persons and factors will be frustrated. Their time and effort will be wasted. (Jer.17:15, CEB) See how they harass me: "Where's the Lord's word? Let it come now!" (Jer.30:10b, CEB)" My people Jacob will again be safe and sound, with no one harassing them."

Thank you for praying. After each issue is mailed, more dates get added to the calendar. Bless you for praying for us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dates are subject to change. Call before traveling.
Check Marty's FaceBook page for updates or our blog page: martygabler.com
PLEASE PRAY FOR US

We have been putting dates on the Calendar after the magazine goes out. Please check Marty's FaceBook page and martygabler.com for dates. We also serve on presbyteries, councils and prayer groups during the week that we don't post. Thank you for your prayers as we travel.— Marty & Kathy

Sept. 22-24 * Willis, TX
Dreams Visions Prophecy 2017
Grace International Church

Sept. 28-Oct. 1
Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky
Jim Hodges, Marty Gabler
Addiction Recovery Care Leadership
Louisa Community Fellowship
Rock of Grace Church

Oct. 6-7 * Tomball, TX
Discovery Conference
Marty Gabler, Bubby Morgan,
Dr. Terry Thompson
Livingstones Church

Oct. 9-11 * Denton, TX
FMC Fall Conference
Jim Hodges, Dutch Sheets, Barbara Wentroble, Dr. Patti Amsden, Simon Purvis, Melissa Gabler-Worship
Marty-Prophet Team

Oct. 15 * Eagle Lake, TX
Next Level Christian Church

8:45am—Kathy Gabler
10:00am—Marty Gabler
Pastors LaDell & Sarah Wilson
www.nextlevelcc.org
979-256-9223

Oct. 20 * Spring, TX
Night Praises at Bright and Morning
Star Ministries and St. Ignatius of Loyola
Worshippers
Team Gabler

Oct. 21 * Spring, TX
Bright and Morning Star
Prayer Group Meeting/Ministry
Marty & Kathy

Oct. 28-29 * Grove, OK
New Song Church
Pastor Marty Dyer

Nov. 4-5 * Frisco, TX
Kingdom Life Church Dedication
Marty Speaking, Melissa Worship

Website: seecministries.org
Daily Devotions: martygabler.com
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