

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Following Present Truth

Art Nelson

Introduction

Several years ago the Lord was stirring things in my spirit as it relates to “present truth” and to hearing God’s “proceeding word”. [*This is detailed in the teaching article “[Released For Ministry](#)” and in the Present Truth Teaching Letter “[Present or Previous Truth](#)”. You should read these first for the best understanding of this teaching letter.*] As I considered this month’s teaching letter, the Lord stirred my spirit again regarding these same issues. I think that a new season is coming upon us soon and the drought of the fresh spoken Word of God is about over. I can’t say it much better than this quote from “Released For Ministry”

“There are a number of people that have been hidden by God on the backside of a desert just like Moses. These are people with a destiny in God, a powerful call of the Lord, who are being prepared to receive a proceeding word. The time is upon us. I believe that the Lord is about to bring to us clear proceeding words that relate to His purposes for the end times. Get ready to move into your destiny.

I don’t mean that this is something you will hear from some pompous prophet who blows into town for a few days and prophesies a bunch of feel good words over everybody. The call of God, your destiny, is already in you. The Holy Spirit is about to anoint it and release it for fulfillment. Others will only confirm what you already know in your heart to be your purpose.”

Polluted Words

The real problem we have today, at least here in America, is our inability to actually discern the difference between present truth and previous truth or even general truth. We don’t recognize proceeding words when they come. We don’t recognize present truth when we hear it. Why has this happened to us? Because we have muddied the water by our many words. Because the Word of the Lord has become polluted by the prophets just as it was in Jeremiah’s day, “...***For from the prophets of Jerusalem Pollution has gone forth into all the land.***” (Jeremiah 23:16)

How do prophets pollute the word? When they prophesy from their own heart and desires rather than from the heart of the Lord.

"I did not send *these* prophets, But they ran. I did not speak to them, But they prophesied. (Jeremiah 23:21 NASB)

The waters are muddied when prophets speak when the Lord has not spoken.

Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD. "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.' (Jeremiah 23:16-17 NASB)

America is filled with many so-called prophets that the Lord did not send, who are speaking visions of their own heart and imagination. Through their words they manipulate believers for their own purposes, for their own advantage and not for the purpose of the Lord. Because of this the Lord has declared His judgment.

"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other. "Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.' "Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:30-32 NASB)

The bottom line is that these polluted words from our ministers "do not furnish this people the slightest benefit". These polluted words make it harder to hear or see the clean, clear word of the Lord. It is of little wonder then that we can't discern present truth or hear a proceeding word.

Hearing the Word

How then do we clear the water? How do we hear correctly and clearly?

"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, That he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened? (Jeremiah 23:18 NASB)

It is by those who have stood in the council of the Lord. Those who have spent time in prayer. Those who have spent time in the presence of the Lord. Those who have given heed to His word and listened. If you have not done these things, you will not receive a present truth word from the Lord. Neither will you be able to discern a true proceeding word when it is given to you through someone else. You receive present truth either directly from the Lord or from someone who truly speaks to you the word of the Lord.

"But if they had stood in My council, Then they would have announced My words to My people, And would have turned them back from their evil way And from the evil of their deeds. (Jeremiah 23:22 NASB)

Present truth words always result in action. This is usually by proceeding words coming forth to direct you in the present truth. Why does it happen this way? It is because of the nature of the

Word of the Lord.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 NASB)

The written word gives us general truth, which is always true. Present truth doesn't change general truth. That is not the purpose of present truth. But, the application of general truth is activated by present truth resulting in the proceeding word. We have a clear example of this given in the Scriptures. Jesus spoke a clear proceeding word to His disciples.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15 NASB)

This word, which we call the "Great Commission" has become the foundation stone for all of our missionary efforts. After all this is a clear directive from the Lord Himself. However, we see it applied in the book of Acts through a present truth word.

Paul and his team were strengthening the new churches and preaching the gospel evangelistically in seeming fulfillment of Jesus' command as shown above. However, the present truth word changed their direction.

They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; (Acts 16:6-7 NASB)

Notice that the Holy Spirit forbade them from preaching the gospel in Asia; the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them to go to Bithynia. Why? This seems like a contradiction to the command of Jesus given previously. If this happened to one of our modern missionaries he would be rebuking the Devil and seeking every way possible to fulfill his command to "go into all the world and preach". However, it is the Lord who directs His servants through the Holy Spirit. He directs through His present truth word. In this case there were two parts to present truth. First was stop. Don't go there. Then the second part, a change of direction, was received in a dream.

A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:9-10 NASB)

This is present truth in action. It immediately produces a new proceeding word. This produces effective ministry.

The American church seems so impotent because we are operating from general truth. We pick out Scriptures to give us comfort, direction, or ministry without waiting before the Lord to receive a present truth word to activate it. There is nothing wrong with general truth. It is just not as effective without present truth fresh from the mouth of God.

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For comments or questions contact Art Nelson at this address:
artnelson@lifestreamteaching.com