

# 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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## Prophetic Significance

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### Introduction

In speaking of the prophetic ministry, T. Austin-Sparks said, “it is a ministry of spiritual interpretation.” That statement is very true. The two primary functions of the prophetic ministry are **revelation** and **interpretation**. While both of these come from the Holy Spirit we have emphasized revelation and neglected interpretation. Prophetic interpretation is not interpreting the Scriptures. Our understanding of the Scripture comes through revelation of the Holy Spirit. Prophetic interpretation is discerning the significance of events to the plans and purposes of God.

### God of History

We tend to forget that all of history is unfolding according to the plan of God. The Scriptures make it clear that God determined some things within Himself before the foundation of the world. God is causing these things to come to pass “in the fulness of time”; that is, at the appointed time in history. These events cannot be looked at as just things that happened. They must be prophetically interpreted in order for us to understand the significance of the events as it relates to God's plans and our place in them.

A good example is the event of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection. This was prophesied clearly in the Old Testament. However, these prophecies were interpreted through a mindset that was blinded by tradition, national pride, and natural thinking so that by the time of the coming of Jesus, He was rejected as the Messiah because He didn't meet the interpreted expectations.

The Scriptures tell us:

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ([Galatians 4:4-5 NASB](#))

Paul interprets the event for us: at the appointed time God sent His Son so that those under the Law could be redeemed; so that we could receive adoption as sons. This was a different interpretation than what was expected by the Jews. They didn't realize that they needed to be

redeemed and certainly adoption as sons of God was alien to their thinking because they were children of Abraham [Luke 3:8-9; John 9:39-45].

Jesus tried to give the Pharisees a proper interpretation of Himself and His work but they took offense because of their mindset. Jesus told them...

"Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is because you cannot hear My word.*  
(John 8:43 NASB)

They couldn't hear His word because of their mindset of orthodoxy.

## Pharisee Mindset

We have imbued the Pharisees with all negative connotations but we need to remember who they were in their culture. The Pharisees were the orthodox. They were the keepers of the truth. They determined what was heresy. They interpreted the scriptures. They were perceived to be the holiest most religious and dedicated people of the nation. However, because of their natural mindset they interpreted scriptures through reason rather than revelation. Without revelation they could not see the prophetic significance of the events which were part of their environment.

Consider for a moment. Who are our pharisees? Who are our orthodox? In our culture who interprets the scriptures and determines heresy? Don't get me wrong, non-orthodoxy can be a problem; heresy is certainly a problem. However, it is only by the Holy Spirit that we can determine what is orthodox and what is not; what is heresy and what is not. If we operate from a pharisee mindset we will brand too many things as heresy that are not heresy but are true prophetic insights.

I am on the mailing lists of many of the heresy hunter ministries and the ministry watch groups. I receive many warnings about various people and ministries. Some of these are truly warranted; however, there are some that are condemned by these groups who are bringing forth real prophetic insight and discerning prophetic significance in current events. We must hear the Spirit of the Lord in these things.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB)

It doesn't matter how orthodox we are if we are operating from the natural mind with logical reasoning processes. The natural man has no understanding of the things of the Spirit; he **cannot** understand them. This doesn't mean that the natural man finds it hard to understand; it means that the natural man is **unable** to understand the things of the Spirit.

## Application

Paul told the Corinthians:

but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory; *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;  
(1 Corinthians 2:7-8 NASB)

Notice that Paul spoke of the prophetic significance of God's wisdom as revealed by events that had not been understood by the rulers of this age.

If the first coming of Jesus was not understood by the natural man, the orthodox, nor by the rulers of this age, what makes us think that the second coming of Jesus will be understood by these same groups? Have we been blinded by the same mindsets? Have we lost spiritual discernment and the ability to interpret events by the Holy Spirit?

One thing that we know for sure is that as the time approaches for the return of Jesus there will be signs in the heavens and the earth. [**Matt. 24:30; Luke 21:11; Luke 21:25; Rev. 12:1; Rev. 12:3; Rev. 15:1**] The question is whether or not the prophetic significance of these signs are recognized. Only those who are walking in the Spirit will have understanding.

In the days of the birth of Jesus the Star of Bethlehem was a tremendous sign. However, even though the heathen Magi from the East perceived its significance, the typical Pharisee and the average Jew did not. With the signs of the end times upon us, will their significance be recognized by the average Christian or the orthodox?

We need real prophets who walk in the Spirit of God.

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel To His servants the prophets. ([Amos 3:7 NASB](#))

We don't need the self-proclaimed orthodox telling us what is heresy and what is not. We need the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who teaches us all things.

**"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ([John 14:26 NASB](#))"**

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. ([1 John 2:27 NASB](#))

Could it be that our lack of discernment of spiritual things is because we have learned to depend on the natural man and his traditions rather than the Spirit of God? Could it be that we have neglected the anointing of the Spirit, not trusting Him to teach us?

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. ([1 Corinthians 2:12-13 NASB](#))

Prophetic interpretation releases the words taught to us by the Spirit and presents to us God's viewpoint of events and their prophetic significance.

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