



Empowering People to Change the World

Marks of the Last Days Church Pt. 4

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8-Marks of the Last Days Church IV

Marks of the Last Days Church:

1. **First Mark of the Last Days Church: Cultivating Wholehearted Intimacy with Jesus**
2. **Second Mark: Cultivating a Lifestyle of Prayer and Fasting, a Watchmen Church**
3. **Third Mark: Cultivating an Overcoming, Prayer Answering lifestyle**
4. **The Fourth Mark: Supernatural Restoration**
5. **The Fifth Mark: There will be an Outpouring of the Spirit**

Joel 2:28

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

- 1) **The 6th Mark will be an Outpouring of the Spirit resulting in a Prophetic Lifestyle**
 - “sons and daughters shall prophesy”
 - even children are going to be hearing from the Lord, new revelation and insights that go beyond their field of experience
 - Ex. Kids in worship and prayer at The Road
 - There is a lot of confusion on this topic. Two views:
 - Cessationist View—the only prophetic words are those preached from the pulpit each week

- Continuists View—that's me! That's Living Hope! We believe that the power, gifts, anointings of the NT are continuing today
- Lets begin this discussion we realizing that Old Testament prophecy and New Testament prophecy are very different.
- OT Prophets spoke the very words of God, and their prophecies became Scripture. OT prophets spoke and wrote with authority straight from God—Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Daniel were prophets who spoke and wrote the very words of God
- NT apostles carried the authority of OT prophets and their words became our NT scripture. The words written by Peter, Paul, and John became scripture
- But, NT prophecy is not the same. We see a change in God's dispensation on prophecy.
 - The NT Apostle, the Lamb's Twelve had the authority of the OT Prophet
 - But upon the death of the Apostles and the closing of the Canon of Scripture, we no longer have men with such authority
 - But the NT is clear, that God still uses the prophetic gift and prophecy. 1 Cor 12, 14, and Romans 12 speak of the gift of prophecy. It is most clear in our passage today
 - We have the Word of God now and only the Bible is inerrant and infallible—All prophetic words are judged by the scriptures. I don't even like to use and don't use the

word “prophet” but rather “prophetically gifted people.” Prophecy today doesn’t carry the authority of the OT prophets, but there is a very practical nature to NT prophecy

- But what is prophecy that Joel is speaking of? What does Peter mean here in verse 17? Why did he say this?
- NT prophecy, spoken of here, might be defined best by imminent theologian, Wayne Grudem, as “speaking human words to report something God brings to mind”

Four things to note about NT prophecy:

- 1. Rev 19:10 says that the spirit of prophecy is the “testimony of Jesus” and thus, it exalts and glorifies Christ**
- 2. It is available to all—our passage says so—anyone can prophecy.**
- 3. It is also a spiritual gift given sovereignly by God. Though all can prophecy, not everyone has the gift of prophecy. See 1 Cor 12 and 14 for elaboration**
- 4. Prophecy is defined practically as being used to minister to others. 1 Cor 14:4 says prophecy is for “edification, exhortation, and encouragement” to the Body of Christ. So God simply brings to mind to a person using his own human words, a report from God, something you need to hear. The 3 E’s of NT Prophecy:**
 - a. Edifying function: Greek means “uplifting, acting in love, worshipping together, self denial”
 - b. Exhortation function: Greek means “comfort or encouragement”

- c. Encouragement function is almost exactly the same as exhortation

Wayne Grudem explains, “Every function of prophecy (edification, exhortation, encouragement) is also a function of several other activities, such as teaching, singing hymns and songs, and engaging in ordinary spiritual conversation.”

- In other words, whenever you are edifying, encouraging, and exhorting others, you are at least partly ministering in the prophetic.
- So what makes prophecy so unique then?
 - It’s not in the function itself, but the timely nature of the gift.
 - The prophetic gifted person is one who has a divine revelation for someone for a specific need at a specific moment in time. A timely word from God!

So I would define the prophetic gifting as a timely word that God brings to mind (either spontaneously or through study) that foretells or forthtells truth for someone or a congregation

- NT prophecy has a common daily usage in that we hear from God and we encourage others, but there is a gifting that comes upon certain people and they are used of God to give a specific word from God for a situation or person
- The most powerful prophetic word each Sunday is David’s message! It is a timely message of truth proclaimed forthtelling! But it can also have a foretelling nature to it

Ex. Charles Spurgeon: “While preaching in the hall, on one occasion, I deliberately pointed to a man in the midst of the crowd, and said,

‘There is a man sitting there, who is a shoemaker; he keeps his shop open on Sundays, it was open last Sabbath morning, he took ninepence, and there was fourpence profit out of it; his soul is sold to Satan for fourpence!’ A city missionary, when going his rounds, met with this man, and seeing that he was reading one of my sermons, he asked the question, ‘Do you know Mr. Spurgeon?’ ‘Yes,’ replied the man, ‘I have every reason to know him, I have been to hear him; and, under his preaching, by God’s grace I have become a new creature in Christ Jesus. Shall I tell you how it happened? I went to the Music Hall, and took my seat in the middle of the place; Mr. Spurgeon looked at me as if he knew me, and in his sermon he pointed to me, and told the congregation that I was a shoemaker, and that I kept my shop open on Sundays; and I did, sir. I should not have minded that; but he also said that I took ninepence the Sunday before, and that there was fourpence profit out of it. I did take ninepence that day, and fourpence was just the profit; but how he should know that, I could not tell. Then it struck me that it was God who had spoken to my soul through him, so I shut up my shop the next Sunday. At first, I was afraid to go again to hear him, lest he should tell the people more about me; but afterwards I went, and the Lord met with me, and saved my soul!’” (Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Autobiography of Charles H. Spurgeon* [London: Curts & Jennings, 1899], 2:226-27).

Spurgeon then adds this comment:

“I could tell **as many as a dozen similar cases** [emphasis mine] in which I pointed at somebody in the hall without having the slightest knowledge of the person, or any idea that what I said was right, except that I believed I was moved by the Spirit to say it; and so striking has been my description, that the persons have gone away, and said to their friends, ‘Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did; beyond a doubt, he must have been sent of God to my soul, or else he could not have described me so exactly.’ And not only so, but I have known many instances in which the thoughts of men have been revealed from the pulpit. I have sometimes seen

persons nudge their neighbours with their elbow, because they had got a smart hit, and they have been heard to say, when they were going out, ‘The preacher told us just what we said to one another when we went in at the door’” (ibid., 227).

Ex. Two years ago as Liz was on a personal retreat, God spoke clearly to her the phrase, “The road less traveled”. Soon after that, over the next four months, God spoke that same word four more times...

***Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.***

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***And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.***

2) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit resulting in a Lifestyle of Dreams and Visions

- Dreams and visions will become commonplace, routine
- God will be supernaturally leading His people through visions and dreams
- Let me hasten to say that visions and dreams must always line up and be judged by Scripture
- But there will be literally visions and dreams giving us wisdom as to the next steps and guiding us
 - Ex. Dream to build on Woodmen Joshua 1:11

- God is pouring out His Spirit upon sons, daughter, young and old—breaking through all ethnic, racial, and age gaps to pour His Spirit through visions and dreams
- This refers to innovative dreams and visions that God is pouring out upon the Church of Christ—new innovative ideas and creativity
- Ex. I can remember just 20 years ago, if you mentioned dreams and visions, you were considered a nut. Now, it's quite commonplace to have someone say they had a vision from the Lord
- Ex. "Aziz" (23 years old) had a dream where Jesus appeared to him and said, "Aziz, I am the way, the truth, and the life. Follow me." When Aziz awoke, he went in search of someone who could tell him more about Jesus. He went to a Catholic priest who told him that he should go home and be the best Muslim he could be. Aziz was not happy with this answer and returned to the Catholic priest several more times begging him to tell him more about Jesus. Finally the priest said, "I can tell that you are going to be one of the charismatic types. There is a man in a near by city (my city) who can help you. Go there and you will find him." (speaking of my team leader) So Aziz traveled to my city where he sought out my T.L. and came to know who Jesus is. He has turned his life over to Christ and continues to be disciplined by my T.L. to this day.
- "Mohammed" had a dream where a man told him to go to a certain park in my city and he would find answers to his questions. He went the following day, and saw a movie playing. The same man who appeared to him in his dream was in the movie. It was Jesus in the Jesus film. He gave his life over to Jesus Christ that night.



- God is working through dreams and visions in our area. Please pray that God continues to work in this way so that people will actively seek Him and eventually find Him.

Testimony of an amazing dream: Terry Lee

Communion and worship