

# Prophetic Insights

## 7. Keep Drawing Nearer To Jesus

*Don't Be Discouraged By The Demonic Principalities And Powers*  
August 22, 2013

### **Introduction**

We are living in a very specific point in history. In our Father's timetable, biblical prophecies are being fulfilled all around the world. Some have a bearing on the chaos, crises and catastrophes which are trumpeted by the media night after night. Passages such as Matthew 24, 2Timothy 3:1-5, and 2Peter 3:3-7 clearly depict the self-idolatry, lawlessness and humanist deception that have so overcome our nation and much of the world. But these are also days when our Lord Jesus wants us to draw nearer to Him than ever, lifting Him up first and foremost in our own hearts in assured loving trust.

***"The devil led [Jesus] up to a high place and showed Him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, 'I will give You all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to'"*** (Luke 4:5,6).

Jesus never denied that the **world system, the governments of this world, are the devil's domain**. So how did our adversary and his demonic lackeys gain such control? *"The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him"* (Revelation 12:9).

Yes, we do live in a realm that's susceptible to darkness (see Ephesians 6:11,12). Satan uses demonic principalities and powers to oversee the various governments around the world, including religious hierarchies.

In this light it's paramount that we who say we belong to our Lord Jesus place our absolute trust in Him and focus on Him alone. If your confidence is in **earthly government** or **religious hierarchy** then you've blinded yourself to our God's absolute sovereign power to rule as HE sees fit. That includes giving Satan permission to test the trust of followers of Jesus as well as to tear down idols of man using a variety of means.

Many Christians erroneously believe that Satan could never infiltrate their particular religious system. But they miss God's warning against the scheme of a very determined and deceitful enemy: *"For Satan himself transforms himself into an **angel** [or messenger] of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works"* (2Corinthians 11:14,15).

Both government and religious systems are vulnerable to Satan's control and influence. People at the top have a **vested interest** to keep the system going with them in control. Domination of religious systems is made easier because of the blind faith which adherents place in their leaders. Were they to trust instead in the truth and power of the Spirit of Christ within them, they'd be able to hear the warning alarm.

We used the following anecdote in the Introduction to our book, *Restoring the Early Church*, to illustrate the way *vested interest* perpetuates personal power and gain:

Henry Cabot Lodge, a [former] senator from Massachusetts, was convinced that many bureaucrats have little else on their minds than

maintaining their power and position (a problem sometimes encountered in religious systems, as well as government). ‘They are a lot like old Si Haskins,’ he said. One day we came upon Si sitting on the dam up above the town. ‘What are you doing, Si?’ we asked. ‘I’m paid to shoot the muskrats,’ he replied. ‘They’re diggin’ under the dam.’ ‘Well, there’s one over there right now.’ We pointed to a big one with his eyes just above water. ‘Why don’t you shoot him?’ ‘You don’t think I want to lose my job, do you?’ he replied.

Leaders in faith communities as well can give way to fear of losing their position and paycheck. They offer sermons that carefully avoid saying anything that would expose sin and call for repentance. If you aren’t able to frequently observe the way of life of your instructor in the faith, then you’re in a religious system. It’s no small warning we’re given: “Remember the ones leading you, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of **their way of life and imitate their faith**. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:7,8).

**Faith isn’t shown through impersonal teaching, but rather in a relationship in which the spoken word is accompanied by role modeling a trust-filled way of life which mirrors the Lordship of Jesus.**

***“Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour”*** (1Peter 5:8).

The news gushes with reports of intense unrest and tension around the world, whether it’s political, religious, or outright hatred toward an individual, a group, or a nation. But so many people, including Christians, are being duped by demonic principalities and powers into

perceiving events in terms of *antagonistic human beings*. As a result many Christians are sucked into anger, bitterness and hostility toward *other people* made in God’s image and for whom Jesus died. In their anger they ignore the reality of an *unseen realm* that’s bent on stealing, killing, and destroying (see John 10:10).

**The strife and turmoil emanate from the demonic principalities and powers battling for supremacy.**

For example, the violent infighting among the various Muslim factions is caused by the agitation of principalities and powers ruling them. The demonic entities have hoodwinked Americans into buying into their propaganda of a fine-sounding “**Arab Spring**.” Through reporters the Deceiver’s host peddled these events as a step to democratic freedom.

But freedom was never the goal of the demons! The chaos they are causing is only the precursor to the events prophesied in Scripture: the nations—all of them—*turning against Israel* (for example, see Zechariah 12:2-4; Joel 3:2). As foretold, at that time the Jews will receive the Spirit of grace and supplication. They’ll look on Jesus, the One they pierced, and mourn, knowing Him as their only salvation. We need to keep praying for them.

Let’s come closer to home and consider the tension permeating this nation. Years ago some respected Christians identified the demonic principality of **Deceit** controlling our government in Washington, DC. Deception is the *modus operandi* of those who make and enforce our nation’s policies!

An even greater principality, **Jezebel**, rules this nation. This entity’s very name indicates, “I have no co-equal.” It incites both men and women to see themselves above the people around them. “Government *service*” is

in reality “government *domination*.”

Because the Bible is no longer THE source of guidance for our government officials as the Founding Fathers had envisioned, strife and chaos have erupted at all levels. Into this void has entered the demonic spirit of Jezebel. Not only does this entity incite the infighting we see throughout government. It also has inflamed the *self-idolizing agitation* and *mutual disregard* for one another that have escalated divorce in this nation.

Several years ago the Holy Spirit conveyed to us a prophetic warning that when a woman becomes President, the Dark Days of Chastisement will soon be upon us because so many men have ducked their responsibilities in all dimensions. This event will also testify to the unmitigated dominance of the Jezebel entity as our Father’s outcry is repeated: *“Youths oppress My people, women rule over them. O My people, your guides lead you astray; they turn you from the path”* (Isaiah 3:12). [Please use the Search Box on our website for further information about effect of Jezebel at all levels of society.]

***“The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth”***  
(Psalms 145:18).

Even though it seems that the principalities and powers are gaining ever-increasing control of everything, they’re not! For us who belong to Him, our Lord Jesus is using these stressful times to draw us even closer to Him in loving and obedient trust. His Lordship in our lives calls for all-out dependence on Him as we follow His Spirit’s direction and serve His purposes. It’s essential that we not give way to a self-protective fortress of **cold love**. Jesus speaks of times like this:

*“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who*

*stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come”* (Matthew 24: 12-14).

How can you recognize *cold love*? People walk right past each other with no facial or verbal acknowledgment that they even exist. Many live in homes of apprehension where affection is minimal or absent. Family members resist even the smallest ways of cooperating with each other in chores or looking to the interests of others. And the demons snicker.

Please, **don’t** allow even an iota of cold love to enter your heart. COLD LOVE IS NOT AN OPTION! You must draw ever nearer to our Lord Jesus so you can drink deeply from Him as the Source of authentic, self-sacrificial love! Anyone can be a “believer” in Christ. But to belong to our Lord as His Spirit-empowered own, you must fully trust Him.

JESUS wants you to turn and depend on Him alone! HE is the only **Sin-bearer** if you need to repent; the only **Deliverer** if you need to be free of demonic influence; the only **Healer** of each and every toxic motivation and memory you have. **HE is who you must become like as you walk in His steps as His trusting child!**

***“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren’”***  
(Luke 22:31,32).

During these times of increasing global and societal tension you’ll find that your own faith and that of others close to you is going to be tested (sifted). Jesus told Peter in advance that he’d be sifted

like wheat. During sifting the useless chaff is shaken off and blown away. So for Peter whatever wasn't going to be fruitful or would hinder his future ministry would be separated and discarded.

This process is similar to what Jesus speaks of in His metaphor about the vine in John 15:1-8. Our heavenly Father is our Gardener Who *“cuts off every branch in us that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful”* (15:2). At the same time our Lord reaffirms the nearness He wants with us: *“Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me”* (15:4).

Thirty years ago we had just begun a teaching ministry at a retreat center. A few months after we started a prophetic friend warned us, **“Don't let others live vicariously through your faith.”**

It took a while for us to understand his warning. We first noticed that other people were sharing testimonies about the miraculous things our Lord was doing on our behalf—but they had no testimony of their own. They were *vicariously feeling good about themselves* by telling others what our Lord did for us.

We also began to learn that if you're pursuing living true to Jesus, He pulls you away from others for a season for a specific purpose: He wants to either test the genuineness of your own trust in Him as your Lord, and/or, to test them (see 1Peter 1:6,7; Exodus 20:20; Deuteronomy 8:16; Judges 2:22).

An example in the Older Testament illustrates how God can test us so that our true heart motives can be revealed:

We're told in 2 Kings 18:5-7, *“Hezekiah*

*trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow Him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.”* But then it's revealed that he gave way to a proud heart and the Lord's wrath fell on him and on the land. He and the people of Jerusalem did repent, but that prideful tendency wasn't dead. When envoys from Babylon arrived, *“God left [Hezekiah] to test him and to know everything that was in his heart”* (2Chronicles 32:31).

It's amazing how Christians can be so “people-dependent” in their faith-walk that they rob Jesus of His central place as Lord of their lives. This may be just the time when He will separate people for a period to test their trust in Him alone. It's tricky business knowing when the Lord wants *you* to pull away from certain people so He can test the genuineness of their faith. We've learned over the years that when we hung in there too long when our Lord wanted to test their conviction, we got in the way. Here's something that may help you:

You need to pull away *before* you give way to resentment and bitterness toward the person our Lord wants to test.

In the years since we first heard the warning about people vicariously through our faith, we've been pulled away on several occasions so our Lord could test certain people who were very close to us. During that time, however, those who were being tested often misperceived us as rejecting them when in fact our Lord was drawing us away for a season. It was only *after* they went through a time of testing and experi-

enced the transformation our Lord intended for them that the separation made sense. In most cases our relationship was then restored, but at a deeper level of mutual commitment to the Lordship of Jesus in our lives.

We certainly recognize that there are times in our life journey in Jesus in which the season of testing is painful but needful. He wants us to become prepared instruments for His use on behalf of other people. We can learn some key lessons from the apostle Peter about the pain as well as the blessing of testing.

The Lord told Peter beforehand that he would deny Him. The anguish the man experienced as that word came all too true was excruciating—but it also transformed him. After Peter's denial and heartfelt repentance Jesus wanted to use him so others could be strengthened and built up in His compassion and forgiveness. And if *your* trust is found to be genuine during your own time of trial, He wants *you* to comfort and strengthen others even as He has so faithfully done for you (2Corinthians 1:3,4).

If you're experiencing loneliness in being to true to our Lord, know that He is

using a separation from others for at least two reasons in your testing: to confirm that Jesus is all-sufficient for you no matter what, and that you have no hesitation to do His Father's will no matter what.

In Matthew 14:25-31 we find Peter again showing how critical it is to draw near to Jesus when we face testing. In the biblical account Jesus is walking on the water near the disciples' boat and greets them. They're terrified, but Peter responds to Jesus' invitation and climbs out of the boat onto the water. So far, so good. He does fine as long as he focuses on Jesus. It's when he takes his eyes off his Lord and sees the perceived danger of his situation that he begins to sink. There's a valuable insight from this scenario for both the apostle and us: ***It's either Jesus or sink!***

Let Peter's lesson be a guide for you as the ever-increasing darkness of this world's ways and values and goals surround you and your faith is tested. The principalities and powers are shaking whatever can be shaken by them. *You* keep your eyes on our Lord Jesus and lovingly and willingly serve Him and others while there is still time.