

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

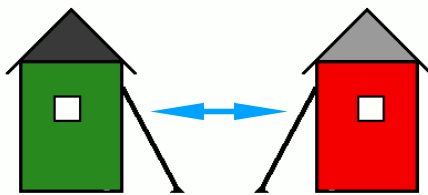
10/10/2019 “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

Nothing Is A La Carte In Following Jesus As LORD

Our Lord Jesus sent His Spirit to indwell His followers so that we'd cooperate as an **obedient, unified body with every follower resolute in doing their part out of loving trust**. You could say that this is a major difference between the Kingdom our Lord came to establish, and **a la carte Christians** who are ensnared in any of the 38,000+ competing denominations and sects. Rather than living **obedience-based** in the Lordship of Jesus, they live **outcome-based**—falsely believing they have the privilege to pick and choose whatever pleases them and ignoring the rest of God's good and righteous Word.

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people... so hear the word I speak and give them warning from Me” (Ezekiel 33:7; see also verses 2-9).

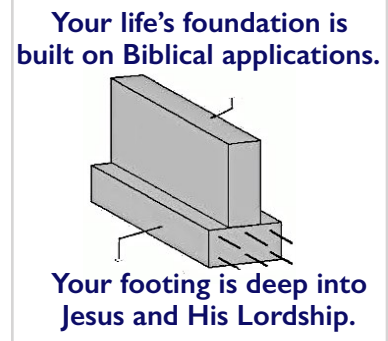
We can assure you from decades of ministry: **Humans don't like warnings!** And, as Jesus and so many of the prophets experienced, **hearers shoot the messenger!** The key area in which reluctance reigns is in receiving and taking action on warnings that would save people from disaster. Please take to heart what we're discussing in this Prophetic Insight.



In this Insight we're not focusing on “*which house should I put my ladder up against?*” In other words, which faith community best meets my personal taste? Or, which preacher, or worship team, or youth group, or singles group best suits me? These are “above ground” considerations. Instead, we're writing to prompt you to scrutinize the deeper issues of your faith walk.

We believe that the role of the prophet who traveled among various faith communities in early Christianity was used by our Lord Jesus to not only encourage those who were true to Him, but also to **warn and/or rebuke those who were allowing themselves to lose their resolute determination to fully love and serve Him**. This Insight purposes to address and warn you about:

- The depth of your spiritual footing set into the Lordship of Jesus.
- Your way of life as it's established on applying His Word.



Both of these are essential elements of the underlying infrastructure of an **obedience-based** life of loving trust in serving our Lord Jesus:

“As for everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built” (Luke 6:47,48).



Using this Insight, please determine through the eyes of our Lord Jesus if:

- He sees you applying the Bible to all areas of your way of life.
- He sees you anchored in His Lordship out of loving and obedient trust.
- He sees you as His own—resolutely doing His Father's will through His Spirit.

In 2004 Nancy Leigh DeMoss published her penetrating book *Holiness*. Below are excerpts of her observations of contemporary Christianity. We can clearly see the ruinous effects of **outcome-based** living among “Christians”—effects we witnessed ourselves during this same period of our own ministry.

“The floodgates of unholiness—including willful, presumptuous, blatant sin—have opened within the church... And then there are the more “respectable” forms of sewage that are often overlooked and tolerated among believers—things such as overspending, unpaid debts, gluttony, gossip, greed, covetousness, bitterness, pride, critical spirits, backbiting, temporal values, self-centeredness, and broken relationships. Sadly, the church—the place that is intended to showcase the glory and holiness of God—has become a safe place to sin.”

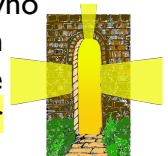
“We have tiptoed around Old and New Testament passages that proclaim the holiness of God, His hatred of sin, and His wrath and judgment against unrepentant sinners, preferring to consider only references to His mercy, grace, and love. We have promoted a “gospel” that says it is possible to be a Christian while stubbornly refusing to address practices or behaviors we know are sinful. We have accepted the philosophy that it’s OK for Christians to look, think, act, and talk like the world... We are seeing the fulfillment of Vance Havner’s prophetic words spoken decades ago: “The world and the professing church first flirted with each other, then fell in love, and now the wedding is upon us.”

“Lots of people who call themselves believers are churning out a lot of religious activity, but we have rewritten the law of God and we have prostituted the grace of God, turning it into a license to sin. The spirit of tolerance has triumphed over the spirit of truth... The church has been waiting for the world to get right with God. When will we realize that the world is waiting for the church to get right with God?” (emphases added)

“For the Lord will carry out His sentence on earth with speed and finality” (Romans 9:28).

Please don’t deceive yourself into embracing the prevailing **outcome-generated lie** peddled by false “Christian” teachers who profess **“all good people go to heaven”**. These deceiving agents of Satan eradicate our Father’s holiness and righteousness by emphasizing only His mercy and forgiveness. When you eliminate His righteousness you are also nullifying His righteous requirements for how His children must live. As a result, there’s *no such thing as sin*. The bloody sacrifice of Jesus on the cross loses its love-impelled purpose—to pay the penalty our sins so deeply merit, and to reconcile us to His Father. But if you’re captive to an even more anti-Christ view that heaven’s gate is open to all no matter how they live, hear this solemn warning: there is no **universal salvation!** That’s the lie of a sin-dominated heart.

Our Father *does* bring judgments on mankind for sin. When the floods were sent during the time of Noah, only eight people were saved (1 Peter 3:20). Even Noah’s ancestors who were alive at that time drowned. Again, only Lot and his two daughters escaped from Sodom and Gomorrah. We encourage you to expand your burden for those you care about on earth. Pray and do all you can *now* to confirm that **you and they meet our Lord Jesus’s stipulations for entering through the very narrow gate.**



The diagram on the next page reflects people’s various heart motivations. In (1) are those who are resolute in their relational commitment to Jesus. In (6), the other end, are those who are doggedly hell-bent. In between are those who need to make a choice NOW! As you study the diagram, •where do you find yourself in our Lord’s eyes? •For those in group (1), how far toward group (6) will our Lord let His followers extend authentic biblical fellowship? Below the diagram are Scriptures pertaining to each of the potential choices people make in this life.



(1) Those with resolute grateful love for Jesus as Lord

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by trust in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

"Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ" (1John 1:3).

"If you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be delivered. For with the heart one keeps on trusting and continues toward righteousness, while with the mouth one keeps on making public acknowledgement and thus continues toward deliverance" (Romans 10:9,10).

"For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life" (2Corinthians 2:16).

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer" (1Peter 3:12a).

"They triumphed over [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death." (Revelation 12:11).

(2) Those growing weary in their loving service to their Lord

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9).

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised" (Hebrews 10:35,36).

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart" (Hebrews 12:1-3).

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word is not in us" (1John 1:9,10).

(3) Those straddling the fence of “being Christian” and loving the world’s ways

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever” (1John 2:17).

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:7,8).

“Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death” (James 1:14,15).

“My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins” (James 5:19,20).

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Hebrews 3:13).

(4) Self-identified “Christians” who love the world’s ways, values and goals

“When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God” (James 4:3.4).

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” (Luke 14:34,35).

“If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them” (2Peter 2:20,21).

(5) Those who once knew the truth but hardened their hearts in unrepentance

“It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace” (Hebrews 6:4-6).

(6) Those who want nothing to do with Jesus and are given over to wickedness

“Whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them” (John 3:36b).

“This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous” and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:49,50).

“The cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars —they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).



The Parable Of The Seed

Using the diagram above as you consider our Lord's parable in Luke 8:11-15, where would you place the various soils (people's hearts) of those who hear the Word of God? •Is each soil (person) equally acceptable to our Lord in their response to His Word? •In light of the different soils, where would you say your own heart motive is? •Where are the heart motives of those you fellowship with?

- "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the Word of God."* (8:11)
- "Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved."* (8:12)
- "Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the Word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away."* (8:13)
- "The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature."* (8:14)
- "But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."* (8:15)

Concluding Thoughts To Consider

In every family or faith family you'll find a variety of different motives concerning this life on earth *and* concerning eternal life. Our Lord is deeply interested in our motives—especially that they line up with His. But people can be two-faced—looking "Christian" on the outside while harboring unChrist-like motives and values on the inside. That's why it's important that we earnestly reflect on not only the condition of our own hearts (our motives) but also on the heart motives of those to whom we might extend authentic fellowship as faith family. This is worth prayerful discussion with one another. Do take seriously Paul's warning about satanic schemes to sneak someone into your fellowship family as a sheep in wolf's clothing: the deceptive disguises and impure motives of those held captive to sin and the various soils of heart which have been compromised with the world system:

“...For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve” (2Corinthians 11:14,15).

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will” (2Timothy 2:24-26).

We intended for this Prophetic Insight to help you identify and come alongside those who are slipping in their walk in Christ or wandering away from true devotion to Jesus in His Lordship in their lives. They're in need of your loving encouragement or perhaps some correction or honest rebuke. Our heart's desire and prayer for you is that you would follow Jesus with heartfelt grateful love for what He did for you and for how He lives within you by His Spirit so that you may live resolute in representing Him in the world.