

An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments



Prophetic Insight 2/12/2024: *When The Holy Spirit Commands, You Do It!*

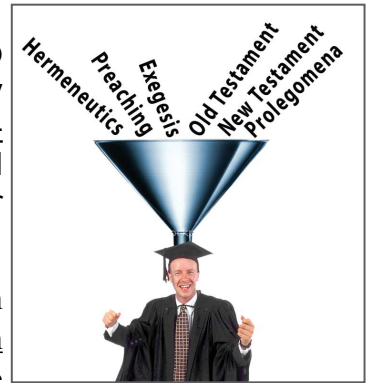


Mike: Please know that this Insight doesn't apply only to prophets and the prophetic. It's meant for everyone who's heard the soft voice of the Holy Spirit directing them, or received a word from the Spirit through a fellow follower of Jesus, or even spoken with an angel but were unaware of who it was (Hebrews 1:14; 13:2). Or you may have received a vision, a dream, or a divine nudge or prompting to take some action. Our heavenly Father's purposes are primarily accomplished through such divine communication with His children, resulting in testimonies to His glory. But over the years I've met too few among the genuinely born again who have obeyed Him and followed through in what He directed.

A prime reason that Christians ignore or outright disobey the Spirit's commands for them is that many have been duped into living without the rule of our Lord Jesus in their lives. Nor have they been discipled and trained to expect to receive divine guidance. For decades I've read writings by 'learned' clergy about the Lordship of Jesus in the lives of His followers. But because of their scholarly seminary approach, each wrote as if our Lord is just an academic topic. None wrote from personal experience of being loving and grateful servants under His rule, nor of encountering divine communication or Spirit-directed interventions.



If you've been misled by people who lack personal interaction with the divine, I want to assure you with the Bible's own truths: •Our Lord Jesus is still ruling His own, •divine guidance is still being imparted, and •divine interventions and miracles are still occurring in and through those who refuse to doubt, and expect that He will interact with them.



"Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' . . . And the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over and join this chariot'" (Acts 8:26,29)

The Holy Spirit continues to use each of those He indwells as His warp and woof in a divine tapestry. As Sue and I have noted many times previously, our Lord Jesus describes this wonderful occurrence to Nicodemus: *"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit"* (John 3:8). My prayer is that the following personal anecdotes will encourage you of the reality of divine guidance that's no different than Philip or our Lord's other followers received. We aren't special or unique in our testimonies; rather we've become attuned to the Spirit and love to bring Father and Lord Jesus glory through being obedient instruments in the Spirit's hands.

◆ While still in the navy aboard a helicopter aircraft carrier, I was just about to climb into bed late one night when the Holy Spirit commanded me, *"Get dressed and go down to the hangar bay."* I put on my uniform and went down to the bay. It was empty, or so I thought. But over in the corner was a sailor standing alone. I walked over to him and he told me he was going to be flown off the ship the next day because the ship's doctor couldn't stop the bleeding from his bowels. I told him I'd pray for him. But as soon as the words came out of my mouth the Holy Spirit told me, *"You take the man up to your stateroom and pray for him there."* I invited him to follow me, and in my room we got on our knees as I prayed for him.

The next morning we were in the middle of flight operations that were being held up during a heavy rain squall. All the flight deck crew and I were huddled in a small room when the man I'd encountered the night before walked in to thank me: "Jesus Christ healed me last night! The doctor checked me one more time and there's no bleeding." The thirty or so guys in the room listened intently as he explained to them how I had prayed to Jesus for him. They then turned to me and asked me to tell them about Jesus. It rained for the next two hours and my Lord Jesus was made known to those men!

◆ "We've been praying for you, and the Holy Spirit told us to tell you that our Lord wants you out of the navy and serving Him full time." This is what the two chaplains aboard ship told me one day while at sea. I spent the next day praying and seeking the Spirit's guidance, and I received His confirmation to resign my commission. (One of the chaplains knew I was deeply concerned about all the denominational division I saw in Christianity, and he recommended an interdenominational seminary in Massachusetts for me to attend—a long way from our homeport in San Diego.)

◆ I was accepted by the seminary, and Sue, our son and I began the long trip across the country. Late on our first day we drove into an unattended, 'put your payment in the box' campground in northern Idaho and were blessed with the last available campsite. After dinner we took a walk around the campground. As we approached the entrance a station wagon drove in. The Holy Spirit told me, "Go help those people. They are the Lord's own." I ran up to the vehicle, which was filled with a large family. Letting them know that the campground was full, I said they could share our site, and gave them the number. One of the family got out to put money in the box while the rest drove to the site.

As we walked up we could hear them singing grateful praises to our Lord Jesus. We shared a wonderful evening of song and testimony around the campfire, which greatly lifted our spirits. (When we left San Diego and the support of my brothers aboard ship as well as our faith family in town, I'd started having doubts about my decision to resign. But I discovered with joy that Father had it all in hand. There around the campfire the family's father was familiar with the seminary I had applied to, and the Spirit used him to reaffirm that I'd made the right decision. On top of that, one of his close friends was a man whose writings on spiritual gifts had greatly helped Sue and me understand our own giftings.)

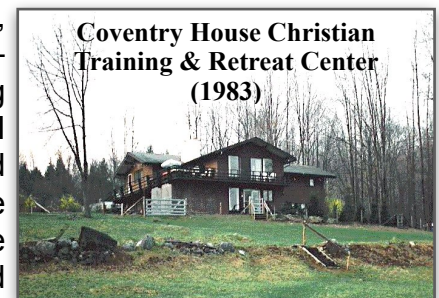
◆ One weekend while at seminary the President took some of the students on a hike to a beaver pond in New Hampshire. I was at the very back of the line of about 20 students as we hiked the narrow trail to the pond. Suddenly the Holy Spirit commanded me, "When Joyce (who was at the front of the line) reaches that rise in the trail, she is going to fall backwards. Go catch her!" Moving forward I twisted my way through the line of people. Just as Joyce reached the rise to the trail, she fell backward into my opened arms. When I explained to everyone how the Spirit had ordered me, we all lifted up praises of thanksgiving.

◆ Sue and I had purchased a home about two miles from the seminary. One night as I was about to get into bed the Holy Spirit commanded, "Go next door to your neighbor John." I got dressed and knocked on John's door. As he opened it I could see in his face that he was deeply disturbed. He worked in quality assurance at a company that made equipment for the military. That day his supervisor had ordered him to pass items that were out of specifications or else he would lose his job. I prayed with him for guidance and courage. The Holy Spirit directed him to go the next day to the Human Resources office and tell them what was happening. That evening John came overflowing with joy: They fired the supervisor, and John was promoted to replace him.

◆ In one of the seminary buildings someone weekly placed fresh vegetables and eggs, using the honor system for people to leave donations in a box. I was impressed that anyone would do such a wonderful trusting act. Then I met Gene, a fellow student who was behind this blessing. Gene worked at a defunct halfway house/farm and commuted to the seminary each week from Coventry, Connecticut. This was the same town where Sue's father lived. On Christmas Day 1982, while we were visiting her Dad, *the Spirit prompted me to go see Gene*. He was living alone in a large lodge while caretaking the premises and the many livestock. On February 3, 1983 the Board of Directors were going meet to decide whether to sell the 60-acre property.

The following week I was told by a ministry that served all of New England that more retreat centers were needed in that area of Connecticut. So I wrote the Directors of the halfway house about what had been told me. They asked if Sue and I would like to submit a resumé. After considerable prayer *we felt prompted by the Holy Spirit* to send the Board of Directors our resumé and what we felt the Spirit would have us do to turn the property into a retreat center. We also gave a copy of this to our congregation elders in Massachusetts. A week later the elders met with us and told us that *the Holy Spirit prompted in their spirits* that He was sending Sue and me to minister at that retreat center. A few days after that, the Directors invited us to their meeting on February 3.

Several days before we were to travel to Connecticut to meet with the Directors, a man walked up to us after the Sunday service at our congregation in Massachusetts. He prophetically said, *"When you get to Connecticut, a man named Norm Swenson is going to help you."* A few days later, the morning of our evening meeting with the Directors, a group of pastors were at the lodge for their monthly prayer get-together. Leading them was Norm Swenson. After the meeting Norm took me aside, "Can I be Elijah to you and you be Elisha?" I told him, "Yes." I'd just been told a few days earlier that he would help us! Norm's first directive was, "I want you to make this a safe place for Jesus." In my spirit I knew what he meant. That night the Directors asked us to turn the place into a retreat center. And Norm was an invaluable help over the years.



◆ After being at the retreat center for awhile we went back to visit our congregation in Massachusetts, staying with one of the families. As we were leaving very early one morning to return to Connecticut, the Holy Spirit spoke to me about two friends of ours: *"Dan' and 'Sara' are not going to China to serve as they'd planned. Go see them this morning!"* We drove over to where they were living and woke them up. As they came to the door in their pajamas I immediately said, "You're not going to China!" Their faces fell and Dan asked, "How did you know?" When I told him that *the Holy Spirit had informed me* they realized that changing their mind about being missionaries in China may have been a mistake. They reconsidered and did go to China as teachers of English, remaining there for several years and reaping a Kingdom harvest among their students.

◆ At the retreat center, we'd been praying for a specific type of used minivan to help Sue in her grocery shopping and to get retreaters around. One dealership had the exact vehicle we had been praying for, but they refused to come down sufficiently in their asking price. So we just kept praying. About three months later I was driving back to the retreat center when the Holy Spirit commanded, *"Go back now to the dealership that's selling the minivan!"* Turning around I headed to the dealership. The minivan was still on the lot—and the dealer accepted our previous offer!

◆ **“Now, GO and FREE the captives!”** This is the command our heavenly Father gave me in a dream in early 1994. That same night Sue was given a dream too, with both dreams releasing us to share the Hebraic foundations. I think you'll be blessed in reading the full context of this event on pages 5 & 6 of [*Turning The Hearts Of The Fathers To The Children*](#).

◆ Several months after coming back to the US in 1994 with the Hebraic foundations, Sue and I were living just outside of Atlanta. An advertising agency had given us office space to use. Very early one morning as I was reading my Bible, the Holy Spirit ordered me, *“Go to the office immediately!”* Sue and I got dressed and arrived in the half-light of dawn. When we went into the building we found “Gary”. I told him that the Holy Spirit had commanded us to come there quickly. With tear-filled eyes he confessed to us that he was just minutes away from committing suicide. But his sorrow turned to joy as he realized that our Lord had seen his plight and cared enough for Him to send us. That made all the difference in his life!

◆ After spending two years in Atlanta, a ministry in Colorado Springs offered to help us disseminate the Hebraic Restoration via seminars and publishing our books. Sue and I first flew out to meet the staff and pray with them. While on a prayer walk in the mountains, the Spirit prompted both of us that we were to accept their proposal. On our last day there, just before flying back to Atlanta, we were at a restaurant with the ministry staff. I noticed a particular guy entering the restaurant, and the Holy Spirit commanded, *“Go meet that man coming through the door!”* I did, and it turned out that he and his brother owned a Christian retreat center in the mountains. After moving to Colorado they offered us a cabin for free for the purpose of writing our books. It was a special time for Sue and me having the privacy to organize the revelations and notes we'd received while in Israel. And the surrounding forest and mountains were a great place for us to hike and pray.

Every divine communication doesn't always seem like a good thing, at least initially.

◆ While we were still at seminary, Sue and I were driving one day when the Holy Spirit told me to tell her, *“The Lord wants you to teach.”* Sue had been extremely reluctant about ever teaching again after her terrible experience with practice teaching in college; she didn't respond with joy... But just a few days after I'd told her the Spirit's message, the kindergarten teacher at the Christian school our son attended called Sue. She asked if Sue could assist another woman who was going to substitute teach for three weeks while the teacher and her husband were going on an evangelism tour. When Sue heard that the other woman would lead, she agreed.

Early the very first morning of the teaching gig, the substitute called Sue. Her child was sick and she asked Sue to take over teaching. For the next three weeks Sue taught the lively little ones, growing more and more excited as she experienced the Holy Spirit breathing in creative ideas each day. And when the teacher came back, she revealed that she was pregnant and not going to be available to teach the following year or so. With delight Sue taught kindergarten for the next two years until we went to the retreat center. And our Lord so anointed her that some of the parents sent their children to the school just because of Sue's Christ-revealing interaction with students and staff alike. (I became known as “the kindergarten teacher's husband.”)

Sue: An especially lovely occurrence took place during my two years of teaching. Occasionally Mike would receive an early morning phone call from Joe, the school principal, when a teacher who was scheduled to conduct the chapel service that day called in sick or was otherwise unavailable. Because Joe had Christ-like respect for his own wife, he wanted to make sure that I, as a wife and mother and teacher,

wouldn't be flustered by this late request, so he wanted to talk with Mike first. And because Mike was well aware of my spiritual gifting and my resolute trust in the Holy Spirit, he knew I'd seek wisdom from Him to give me something to share at chapel that would be just what the children and staff needed to hear. So each time Joe called, Mike told him I'd do it—and the Holy Spirit always came through! I'm telling you this because I want you younger husbands and wives to know the peace that a wife has when her husband safeguards her. This God-given protection requires him to know the gifting(s) the Holy Spirit has apportioned her, and her own emotional capacity. Make sure *you* know these too!

◆ I'd been encouraging a close pastor friend to stay true to our Lord Jesus even though his denomination was becoming very liberal. It wasn't long before he was defrocked for holding true to our Lord. Several months later I was invited to play golf with a friend and the golf course pro. A fourth person joined us, a retired clergyman I'd never met. (I didn't realize it was the same man the denomination had called out of retirement to defrock my pastor friend.) While having lunch the man realized I was the guy who'd encouraged my friend to stay true to our Lord, and he began an "anti-prophet" tirade. I bowed my head and asked the Holy Spirit for guidance. He told me two things to say, but commanded me to share only the first unless He gave me permission to share the second.

I stopped the older man as he paused for a breath and asked him, "Would you like to know how our Lord Jesus sees you?" Startled, he nodded yes. I told him the first point which the Holy Spirit had spoken to me: "*There is nothing written about you in heaven!*" He sadly replied, "Twenty-five years ago my brother told me the same thing." All the years during which he'd risen to the top of his denomination, he'd been propelled by his own presumptuous view of himself. Now, 25 years later, our Lord wanted to warn him one last time that nothing was known about him in heaven. That's scary, isn't it? He asked me what he should do. The Spirit released me to tell him the second point: "*Go to the pastor you defrocked and ask his forgiveness.*"

There are times the Holy Spirit intervenes to redirect your path.

We're told in Acts 16:6,7 that "*Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.*" But then came the redirection: "*During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us'. After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them*" (Acts 16:9,10).

If you're to be true to our Lord Jesus, you'll find yourself experiencing redirection as Paul and his companions did. Sue and I have encountered a good number of redirections over the years where something doesn't go as we wanted or expected. And it's been wonderfully amazing that after we committed a situation in prayer (Proverbs 3:6), we'd often divinely meet someone the Holy Spirit wanted us to encounter. If the Spirit hadn't intervened in re-orchestrating our plans or timing or even the traffic, we wouldn't have met them for His purposes if we'd followed our original plan. I hope that you too are flexible enough to be redirected by the Holy Spirit according to our Father's will for you.