

January 10, 2012 Receiving God's Warnings

“Hear, O My people, and I will warn you —if you would but listen to Me...!” (Psalms 81:8).

Prior to his homegoing to Lord Jesus last year, David Wilkerson spent decades expressing prophetic warning to this land through his Pulpit Series Newsletters. While some of the disasters God spoke through him have already transpired, the worst is yet to happen! The Bible makes clear that our loving and long-suffering Father has a *delay time* between His prophetic warnings and His season of chastisement so that people might repent and change their ways. (See, for example, the Book of Jeremiah.) Presently God has been warning His people for some time. Please, don't be presumptuous and wait until the chastisement actually takes place to repent and live a life pleasing to Him. As with ancient Judah and Jerusalem, presuming on a relationship with Him that's in name only is a pathway to destruction!

During Mike's many years of counseling clergy, he discovered just how many of these men despised David Wilkerson and his forthright prophecies. They feared his confrontation of lukewarmness and people-pleasing leaders, so they tossed out the messenger along with his messages. Think about that...

If you've haven't been on Wilkerson's mailing list in the past, you can read his warnings by going to:

<http://www.worldchallenge.org/en/pulpit_series_newsletters>. On this page go to the right under the "Search Filter." We recommend clicking on the year starting in 1992. Let the Spirit of Christ guide you to the warnings He wants you to read, asking Him for confirmation and revelation of how He would have you respond.

***“Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?”
And [we] said, “Here [we are]. Send [us]!”*** Isaiah 6:8

Almost 18 years ago our Father entrusted to us a prophetic ministry—to make known the Hebraic foundations He is restoring to the Gentiles as He returns the Jewish people to Israel as He promised. If you're not accustomed to a prophetic voice, we want to take a moment to help you understand what makes prophecy different from most pulpit teaching which focuses on imparting biblical information.

When Father recruits someone His Spirit has gifted with prophecy to deliver a word from Him, it is with the intent that His people would respond and *take action*. This is the scriptural pattern—to hear with the intent to follow through. Through a prophetic word you're either being *told to act* so that you may fulfill

His particular purpose, or you're being warned to stop a sinful action. To hear a word that has been tested and confirmed and *do nothing about it* leaves you sinning against our Lord.

In general, the prophetic ministry is twofold. When people consistently ignore or violate His commands, God sends a prophet to point the way back. The message the prophet is given is intended to be like a stop sign. The message apprises people of what God wants them to stop doing, and often discloses the drastic consequences if they fail to heed His warning. Like parents who love their children and correct them when they're doing wrong, our Father warns His people about the painful repercussions they'll experience if they continue to willfully sin against Him.

The other side of prophecy is to strengthen, encourage and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3) those who are doing Father's will. God often sends a prophetic voice when those who are carrying out His will are facing adversity because of their obedient trust. This was the situation when Ezra returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 5:1,2; 6:14).

- **When God's people fear Him in holy awe and keep His Word out of loving trust, a prophet is an encouragement to them. (See Malachi 3:16,17, for example.)**
- **When God's people *don't* fear Him and consistently *violate His Word*, they fear the prophet and try to discredit or destroy him. (See Jeremiah 26:7,8.)**

As we've mentioned in previous teachings, all prophecy should be tested and confirmed: ***"Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good"*** (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21). The source of all true prophecy is the Spirit of Jesus (Revelation 19:10), and His Spirit within His followers will confirm a prophetic word and guide them into what they should do in response.

A Personal Note:

We're delighted when people who encounter what we've been given to share test it with the Spirit of Christ to see if it conforms to His Word! Because they're trusting the Spirit of Christ to make it plain, they then go forth bearing fruit to our Father's glory. The two of us sense our Father's deep mercy as He's revealing His desire for His children to live in **Covenant union** with Him through the Hebraic foundations. In 1 Thessalonians 2:8,11-13 the apostle Paul wonderfully captures our own heart motives as we share these truths, and as those who read or hear them follow through to KNOW whether they are from God.

Do You Know Where You're Going? Do You Know How to Lead Others There?

Richard Wurmbrand, founder of Voice of the Martyrs, regarded in a very hopeful light those who considered him their enemy because of Jesus. He wrote of this perspective in his book, *Tortured for Christ*:

"But looking at men like this—not as they are, but as they will be—I could also see in our

persecutors a Saul of Tarsus—a future apostle Paul. And some have already become so. Many officers of the secret police to whom we witnessed became Christians and were happy to later suffer in prison for having found our Christ. Although we were whipped, as Paul was, in our jailers we saw the potential of the jailer in Philippi who became a convert. We dreamed that soon they would ask, 'What must I do to be saved?' In those who mocked the Christians who were tied to crosses and smeared with excrement, we saw the crowd of Golgotha who were soon to beat their breasts in fear of having sinned.

It was in prison that we found the hope of salvation for the communists. It was there that we developed a sense of responsibility toward them. It was in being tortured by them that we learned to love them. A great part of my family was murdered, and it was in my own house that their murderers were converted. It was also the most suitable place."

Most of us who follow Jesus in this country aren't being persecuted for our faith. Yet, we must learn the lesson our brothers and sisters have mastered who have been tortured for their trust in Him: **to see those around us not as they are, but as they will be.** This kind of understanding calls for your own full assurance of your eternal life in Christ as you press on to follow Him. And, as demonstrated by the faithful perseverance of those who are suffering for His Name, that you're willing to do whatever is necessary to help others join in that journey to the narrow gate.

Our Lord commanded, ***"Going [through life], make disciples..."*** (Matthew 28:18-20), wherever He plants you. He means for you to lead others by biblical instruction for application and by your own way of life through which you reproduce yourself in the ones you disciple (1 Corinthians 4:17). Everyone who follows Jesus is commanded to do this! And, in order to lead others you come alongside, you need to know with firm confidence:

- To Whom you belong.
- The absolute truth of His Word.
- What He commands you as your Lord.

And all of this is wrapped in an unflinching willingness to be inconvenienced by those you lead, because it's your way of life you're sharing with them—*putting the Bible into action*, not just speaking it at them!

You need to perceive every relationship you have with an unbeliever through the motive of Jesus—*that that person may spend eternity with Him*. He loved them so much that He sacrificed Himself for them. Can you have any less love for them?

"Going [through life], make disciples..." is a call for you to lead others, preparing them to then be able to disciple and lead others too. The leading we are speaking of is YOU living and reproducing your trust-based way of life and helping them unpack and put into practice God's Word for themselves. By your godly and obedient way of life and your biblical instruction to help them encounter God and His ways, you reproduce yourself—the Christ in you—in the spiritual sons and daughters you disciple (1 Corinthians 4:17). Again, *everyone* who follows Jesus as Lord is commanded to do this!

Remember that the foundation of a relationship with our heavenly Father is **repentance**

—turning from sin whenever you're convicted by the Spirit, and turning to Him for forgiveness in Jesus with intention of making His commands your way of life. Staying repentant out of loving, obedient trust is the glue that binds this glorious relationship together right up until we are welcomed into heaven (1 John 1:7-9).

As our Lord's representative, your leading is based on you being actively involved in the lives of others, role modeling and instructing them in His Word into a way of life that pleases our Lord. By this personal interaction, they can witness the character and motives of Jesus that His Spirit has worked in you. They'll also see how the commands of God's Word have become your way of life. And by not pretending you're perfect and not trying to hide character flaws that still need sanctification into Christ's likeness, you're leading them into a pattern of turning to Jesus for the grace and power to become more like Him. This way of life, and the way of life it produces in others, is holy and pleasing to God!

No matter how popular a method it is today, **discipleship is *not* teaching the Bible at others**. Discipleship is far more than mere talk that treats God's Word as an academic subject. Use the Bible as a holy resource to understanding the nature and ways of God and as the foundation for your redeemed relationship with Father through Jesus. But NEVER use His Word as an *end in itself* to be read and then forgotten until the next time you pick it up (see James 1:21-25). When you lead in the way Jesus did and intends for His followers to, you fully involve yourself in their lives and lead them by your example, which you are basing on His applied Word. Your pilgrimage of Christ-like development through His Spirit is a powerful testimony to others to encourage and strengthen them in their own walk of obedient trust (2 Corinthians 3:17,18).

If you're to lead in the way our Lord calls for in His Word, you need to intentionally represent His loving concern for the salvation of those around you by what you do and what you say. Lead them to Him as the living and active Son of God, sharing yourself with them and instructing them in His reality as you equip them to explore His Word and put it into practice. Both your words *and* your actions should reflect the scriptural Lord you know and trust personally, not a vague Someone you know *about*.

If every person who claims to belong to Jesus would love their unbelieving relationship(s) as themselves (Luke 10:27) and take them under their care by coming alongside them in holy example as His ambassadors of truth, this nation might truly become “one nation under God.”

May this Teaching E-mail catapult you to responsive, Spirit-empowered action on behalf of the King you love and serve!

Mike & Sue