TALKING POINTS

The Gift of Prophecy
Quarter 4, Lesson 13
"Blessings from the Prophetic Word"

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MEMORY VERSE: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This week's lesson concludes this study series by affirming the tremendous blessings provided to us by the gift of prophecy.

1. Prophecy exalts Christ and His Word (Sun, Mon)

- Christ is the Messenger *behind* and the Message of *all prophecy* (Rev. 19:10; 1 Pet. 1:10, 11; Lk. 24:27, 32).

> The apostles accepted Jesus upon the testimony of prophets and righteous men, stretching over a period of many centuries. The Christian world have a full and complete chain of evidence running through both the Old and the New Testament; in the one pointing to a Saviour to come, and in the other fulfilling the conditions of that prophecy. All this is sufficient to establish the faith of those who are willing to believe. The design of God was to leave the race a fair opportunity to develop faith in the power of God and of His Son and in the work of the Holy Spirit. 3SP 182.2 (Qtly, Sun, par 3)

- True prophets always affirm Scripture (Is. 8:20; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17).

> I recommend to you, dear reader, the Word of God as the rule of your faith and practice. By that Word we are to be judged. God has, in that Word, promised to give visions in the 'last days'; not for a new rule of faith, but for the comfort of His people, and to correct those who err from Bible truth. EW 78.1

2. Prophecy unifies God's church (Tue, Thu)

- Prophecy helps us discern truth from error.
    - From the very beginning, Satan tried to deceive us away from God and His truth (see Gen. 3:1). The same deception still leads men away from truth to fatal error (see Mt. 24:4,5,24,25; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).
    - The gift of prophecy helps expose those errors and guide us back to Bible truth (see Ac. 2:14-36; Lk. 24:44-47).

- The prophetic gift helps unite us in our Remnant church identity (2 Chr. 20:20; Eph. 4:11-16; Rev. 12:17; 19:10).
    - "The gift of prophecy, one of the signature gifts of the Spirit, is essential to unify God's people, especially as they near the second coming of Jesus, so that they might believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved." Qtly, Thu, par 4
        - "If you are not going to give up the biblical seventh-day Sabbath, you have pretty much wiped out 99.5% of your options, as the vast majority of churches do not keep the fourth commandment. If you are not going to believe that the dead either go immediately into heaven to be with Jesus or are burning now in hell and will for eternity, as well—then what? You have eliminated most, if not all, of the .5% left. To where else but the Seventh-day Adventist Church?" Qtly, Tue, par 5-7

3. Prophecy comforts God's people (Wed, Fri)

- Through the gift of prophecy, the Holy Spirit comforts us (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13).

> The Comforter is called "the Spirit of truth." His work is to define and maintain the truth. He first dwells in the heart as the Spirit of truth, and thus He becomes the Comforter. There is comfort and peace in the truth, but no real peace or comfort can be found in falsehood. DA 671.1

- A 1982 study conducted at Andrews University compared Seventh-day Adventists who regular read Ellen White's writings with those who did not. They concluded their results as follows –
    - "Those who regularly read Ellen G. White's writings have a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus than those who don't read her; they have a stronger assurance of salvation, more regular family worship, and a desire to witness to others…. 'In the church growth survey, on every single item that deals with personal attitudes or practices, the member who regularly studies Ellen G. White's books tends to rank higher than does the member who reads them only occasionally or never…. Certainly the implication is that the regular reading of Ellen White's material does make a positive difference in Christian life and witness.'" Qtly, Fri, par 3 (see also Seventh-day Adventists Believe, p. 357)

CONCLUSION

"During this quarter, we have learned that God communicates through His prophets. Their messages connect us to God and bring a holy and sanctifying influence into all aspects of human life, especially relating to the promise of salvation found in Jesus… They call us to holy action, life transformation, personal evangelism, and a life of service to others. This is essential preparation to fulfill our part in the last proclamation to the world as we look for the coming of Jesus." Qtly, Fri, par 4