

## Show you things to come

One of the most untapped areas of the ministry of the Holy Spirit is the promise that He would show us things to come. This is a benefit to the born-again believer that needs to be taken advantage of. This is also one avenue through which God speaks to us.

These things to come could be **negative or positive**. The Lord is showing us to either give us peace, assurance, warning, direction or have us do something.

A. *John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

- a) The Spirit of Truth is referring to the Holy Spirit. He will guide us into **all** truth, not some truth but ALL. If someone is guiding you, he is not doing all the work for you. He works with and alongside you. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is our guide.
- b) Additionally, we have a promise that he will show us things to come.
- c) We can know things to come through the power of the Holy Spirit if we will tap into this and believe. One of the reasons we do not see this happening in our lives is because we are not stepping out in faith for it.
- d) How many heartaches could we have avoided only if we tapped into this part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit?
- e) One of the major characteristics of God is His foreknowledge. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He makes this available to the believer who appropriates it by faith.

- f) Notice that these verses say that He shows us things to come, not ALL things to come. If we were to know all the things to come, we would not walk by faith.

B. Acts 21:9-11 *And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Agabus. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.*

- a) Agabus was able to see things to come as concerning Paul. He was operating in this promise (John 16:13). A word of knowledge has attributes of being shown things to come.
- b) When the Lord shows us things to come, it could be in the form of direction or a warning.
- c) God shows us things to come both positive and negative.
- i) Positive—for our future and the good plans He has for us
- o God showing us things to come could look different for everyone.
    - It could be a lack of interest or desire to do something which we would have done normally. It could be a recollection of a set back experienced that could reveal to us what could come.
    - Things not working out as expected. Many times we tend to force things, but could it be that God is showing us things to come?
- ii) Negative—revealing to us the negative plans of the enemy. The reason for this is not to strike fear in our hearts but to avoid, avert, stop the plans of the enemy from happening. We can do something about it such as pray and stop all these negative things and or change our action.

- o During the September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 attack on US soil by the enemy, 3000 people died of which 1000 were first responders. The people that worked there were about 50,000 yet that day few people showed up to work and about 13,000 to 15,000 were able to get away. It could be that some of those who did not show up were warned of the Lord. It could have been in many different ways.
  - o I was once told by a dear friend that during the tsunami, animals went on higher ground. Their instincts warned them, and they followed suit. If God can warn animals and show them things to come, how much more we His children.
  - o I worked at a Pizza hut in Manhattan, New York, NY and the Lord showed me that I was going to get fired from Pizza hut. Knowing this, I resigned before I was fired. He showed me things to come.
  - o Another time while at a job, a guy tried to be friendly to me and one night while I was home the Lord showed me that he was gay. He warned me and showed me details about this guy. No, not to shame him, but wanted to protect me and also extend His grace toward this man so he can repent.
- C. Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and **new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.** (emphasis mine)
- D. Isaiah 45:11 Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, **Ask me of things to come** concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. (emphasis mine)
- E. Isaiah 46:10 **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done,** saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: (emphasis mine)
- F. Isaiah 48:5 I have even from the beginning declared *it* to thee; **before it came to pass I showed it thee:** lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. (emphasis mine)
- G. John 13:19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am *he*.

## How the Lord shows us things to come and points to note.

### A. Word

Psalms 119:104-105 "Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

- a) God shows us things to come through the Word. Knowing the Word of God is a gateway to being led by God and eventually showing us things to come.

### B. Peace

The presence of or a lack of peace could be used by the Lord to show us things to come. We should never ignore a lack of peace.

Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- a) He shows us things to come as we are being led by the peace of God.
- b) One time I was working a job and I lost peace for some reason. Then later the Lord showed me that the boss was getting ready to make changes and they were going to let me go. Knowing this beforehand, I decided to resign and as I was doing so, they were interviewing someone to take my place.
- c) Another time I was in the process of applying for the Job and the Lord showed me that I was going to get hired into the position I was applying for. He showed me things to come.

### C. Faith

- a) Everything in the kingdom of God operates on faith.

- b) Just like in everything else that pertains to the Kingdom of God, we need to step out by faith and believe that God has or is showing us things to come and take appropriate action.

#### D. Inner Witness

When God speaks to us or shows us things to come (for the future), one of the ways is through an inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

What is a witness? It is simply a thing or voice that furnishes evidence or proof. The inner witness will eliminate all other voices. This could be a voice that is repetitive and comes with a strong conviction.

Romans 8:16-17 "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

- a) The Holy Spirit will bear witness to His will, the things that He wants us to see and know through our spirit man. Somethings will bear witness while others will not.
- b) This witness could be for or against something, a red light or green light. It could be a **check** in your spirit, an impression or thought. Have you ever had a thought that comes randomly?
- c) When God shows you something to come, it will bear witness with your spirit man. There will be a Spirit to spirit connection. He is not bearing witness with our eyes, minds, etc. but our spirit.
- d) Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

#### E. Heart reservations.

The Lord shows us things to come through heart reservations.

Reservations are defined as skepticism, unease, hesitation, hesitancy, reluctance.

Heart reservations could be things that you get to know that just bring about certain reservations in your heart. They are more like red flags. This is a crucial way God warns us and can lead us to go a different direction by revealing some information to us that would bring reservations. These should never be ignored.

- a) God speaks to us through certain reservations we get about making certain decisions or taking certain steps. Although not all reservations we have is God speaking to us, we must take time and think through things. Proverbs 4:26 *“Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.”*
- b) Never neglect nor go against the reservations in your heart (Genesis 27:1-30). Never do it. It is not worth the pain and heartache that will eventually follow.

## F. Prophecy

Prophecy is simply an inspired word from God in a known tongue that is meant to edify, exhort, and comfort. Another way God shows us things to come is through prophecy.

The Word of God is clear about NOT despising prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20 *“Despise not prophesyings”).*

- a) 1 Corinthians 12:1 *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.”*
- b) 1 Corinthians 14:3 *“1 Corinthians 14:3 “But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”*

There are three major checks to prophesy or a word of Prophecy:

- i) Edification
- ii) Exhortation
- iii) Comfort

## G. Visions and Dreams

We should not **seek** visions, dreams, audible voice, and so forth. All these are secondary forms of God leading us. If the Word of God is not sufficient, nothing else will.

We should stop looking for the spectacular or dramatic. Pay attention to your intuition—sensings or feelings, impressions, and thoughts.

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