

## 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:

- a) Peace
- b) Assurance
- c) Warning
- d) Direction or have us do something.

Main Text: 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 refers 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.
  - i) 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 troubles 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**.
  - i) 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.

A. 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 concerning Paul. He was operating in this promise (John 16:13). A word of knowledge has attributes of showing 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.
    - o It could be a lack of interest or desire to do something that we would have done normally. It could be a recollection of a setback experienced that could reveal to us what could come.
    - o 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, and stop the plans of the enemy from happening. We can do something about it, such as pray and stop all these negative things, or change our actions.

- 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 who 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 by the Lord. It could have been in many different ways.
  - I was once told by a dear friend that during the tsunami, animals went to 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?
  - 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.
- B. 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)
- C. 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)
- D. 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)
- E. Isaiah 48:5 I have even from the beginning declared *it* to thee; **before it came to pass I showed *it* thee:** lest thou shouldst say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them. (emphasis mine)
- F. 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:

## Faith

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe.

- 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.

### 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) You should not be going around jumping from **one man of God to another to show you things to come.**

No one has a monopoly on seeing things to come.

Man of God, what is God saying? Do you have a word from the Lord for me? Should I do this or that?

- c) You should not be going to palm readers for the same.
- d) For a believer, God has made this available to you through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- e) If you know the Word of God and the principles of the Word, that will show you things to come, such as danger.

### Prudence

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent *man* foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Proverbs 27:12)

## B. Peace or a lack of it

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.

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

- a) He shows us things to come as we are being led by the peace of God.

Example: One time I was working a job, and I lost my peace for some reason. Later, the Lord showed me that the boss was getting ready to make changes and that 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.

Psalm 85:8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

## C. 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.

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 a green light. It could be a **check** in your spirit, an impression, or a 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.
  - i) 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.
- d) Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

#### D. Heart reservations.

The Lord shows us things to come through heart reservations.

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

#### E. 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) I Corinthians 12:1 "Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant."
- b) I 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

## F. Visions and Dreams

We should not **seek** visions, dreams, an 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.

Ecclesiastes 5:3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is *known* by multitude of words.